Daily Report

Latin America

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Argentina

Jerusalem radio, citing a report by TELAM, reports that five suspects have been arrested in connection with the Israeli Embassy bombing. Four men and one woman were arrested at a Buenos Aires apartment by an antiterrorist squad.

Venezuela

AFP reports a "continued wave of protests and disturbances" on 21 March in cities throughout the country. President Perez called the protestors "terrorists and antipatriotic." Referring to the 19 March demonstration in Caracas that was "violently repressed" by police, Perez said that "public forces acted the way they did to maintain order" and that the demonstration "was not successful."

Colombia

Santa Fe de Bogota television announces that the peace negotiations in Mexico City have been indefinitely suspended because of the death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero, who was kidnapped by the EPL. President Gaviria is expected to confer with peace advisers to decide on future talks with the guerrillas.

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro television carries a report that President Collor has dismissed Environment Secretary Jose Lutzemberger and Ibama President Eduardo Martins in response to a confrontation between the two men. Lutzemberger claims that "there was a campaign at Ibama to destabilize his administration."

Cuba

GRANMA 'Reveals New Evidence' on Blockade

FL2003210392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The GRANMA newspaper today reveals new evidence of intense U.S. activity to strengthen its criminal blockade against Cuba. Following is a summary of the GRANMA article:

The U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, has distributed a document demanding that companies in European countries avoid initiating contacts with the Cuban Government or investing in our economy. Paragraph six of the document states: The U.S. Government strongly calls on these companies to avoid initiating contacts with the Cuban Government or investing in the Cuban economy.

The GRANMA article points out that last year, when the Cuban Government brought up the issue of the blockade at the 46th UN General Assembly session, the White House tried to block its inclusion in the General Assembly agenda with the argument that it is merely an embargo. GRANMA notes that according to this point of view, this dispute, which is more than 30 years old, is only bilateral and is protected by international law, since every nation is free to maintain with other countries whatever relations it considers useful to its interests.

However, a lengthy litany of specific events that have taken place during the last 33 years seems to indicate the contrary, as the document distributed in Europe demonstrates. The article by journalist Nicanor Leon says that we should remember that international law prohibits any attempt by a nation to enforce its laws outside its own territory, because this affects the jurisdiction of other states. This standard explains the reactions by governments, such as those of Great Britain and Canada, on occasions when there have been attempts to regulate their transactions with Cuba based on Washington's decisions.

The article concludes by saying that, as many have wisely understood throughout the world, disagreement with the blockade against Cuba is not a simple case of adopting a position on an unparalleled bilateral dispute, but rather is a clear determination to confront the dilemma of accepting or rejecting the relegation of the principle of national sovereignty to a piece of paper in a wastebasket.

Commentary on U.S. Blockade, Torricelli Bill

PA2103160492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Commentary by Miguel Cabrera]

[Text] The U.S. blockade against Cuba is an attempt to hide behind the right of each nation to maintain the relations it wishes with other nations; however, Washington's hostility toward the Caribbean island goes much beyond that.

Recalcitrant U.S. political sectors are now trying to pass the so-called Torricelli Bill in Congress. Among its goals is to involve third countries in the blockade against the island. This bill is nothing more than a variation of previous ones which, by the way, were rejected even by traditional Washington allies such as Canada and Great Britain. The governments in Ottawa and London characterized its articles as an attempt to meddle in their internal affairs and sovereign rights.

Following its line to involve third parties in its anti-Cuban strategy, the White House is revealing in the most important European capitals a document intended to obstruct the economic relations of those countries with Cuba. In this document the White House states that the reasons for the economic blockade imposed on Cuba are solely economic. This is an attempt to hide the truth.

The real reason for the blockade is directly tied to Washington's reply to a revolutionary project established in Cuba in 1959 and, to the chagrin of the White House, radicalized two years later. History confirms this: The blockade was imposed after the Havana government, during a popular assembly, declared the socialist nature of the Revolution.

Henceforth, the United States intensified its efforts to stretch its anti-Cuban campaign to the diplomatic arena and managed to isolate the island from the Western world almost completely; there were a few honorable exceptions.

The White House has planned attacks on our socialist revolution such as that at the Bay of Pigs, which was defeated in less than 72 hours; infiltrated counterrevolutionary and terrorist groups; implemented plots to assassinate the country's leaders; and is currently displaying a hostile policy which includes threating and bribing third countries to place Cuba on the dock in the area of human rights.

Washington has become obsessed with the Cuban process now that the socialist world has collapsed and Cuba has become the standard-bearer of those just ideas. These are the real reasons for an unsuccessful blockade that has lasted over 30 years.

FAO Official: Food Blockade Rights Violation

FL2103160592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Cecilio Moron, an official of the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] who participated in the Latin America Conference on Nutrition which ended yesterday in Mexico, has declared that the food blockade against Cuba, promoted by the countries which oppose its government, violates a basic right of mankind.

Diplomatic Relations With Kyrgyzstan Established

FL2003222292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Cuban First Vice Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo and Kyrgyz acting Foreign Minister Murat

Saralinov have decided in Bishkek to establish bilateral diplomatic relations. At the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry, Hidalgo and Saralinov have signed a protocol that stresses the two parties' interest in developing their ties further on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

Located in central Asia, Kyrgyzstan has approximately 4.3 million inhabitants and an area of more than 195,000 square km.

The international media today recalled that on 17 March the Cuban delegation decided to establish diplomatic relations with Moldova, and on 12 March it elevated the ties between Kiev and Havana to the ambassadorial level.

Vice Minister on Foreign Policy Priorities

PA2003191792 Paris AFP in Spanish
1401 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Bertrand Rosenthal]

[Text] Havana, Mar 20 (AFP)—Ramon Sanchez-Parodi, Cuban vice minister of foreign affairs, in an interview with AFP, said Cuban foreign policy continues true to the principles of the Castro revolution but is adapting to the new international situation.

According to Sanchez-Parodi, some adjustments have been made in Cuba since the fall of East European and Soviet communism. Relations with Latin America have been given priority and apparently there has been a definite reversal of the old revolutionary export policy.

On the regional level, Cuba "is joining integration efforts and furthering the development of bilateral and multilateral relations," he said. In regard to the recent renewal of consular relations with Colombia, Chile, and Belize, Sanchez-Parodi pointed out that "there are only a few Latin American countries that do not have relations with Cuba."

"Objectively, there has been a change of priorities in our actions in Latin America," the vice minister remarked, commenting on the recent separation of Manuel Pineiro from his post as chief of the America Department. For many years Pineiro guided Cuba's relationships with the region's leftist and ultraleftist sectors.

In regard to the upcoming Ibero-American summit in Madrid, which President Fidel Castro plans to attend, Sanchez-Parodi announced that Cuba will not take a specific topic to Madrid: The summit "agenda must be decided by all," he noted.

"We will participate in this second Ibero-American summit. We see it as a joint effort, as an agreement to work together and coordinate our work to resolve our common problems," Sanchez-Parodi stated.

The Cuban official said there is "enthusiasm" for President Castro's visit in Spain, but admitted that Cuban-Spanish relations "could be better."

Spain is Cuba's main European partner but relations cooled during the summer of 1990. Sanchez-Parodi regretted "certain statements and actions" made by the Spaniards "as these did not contribute to maintaining a healthy climate."

In contrast to the attitude when President George Bush was elected four years ago, when several sectors in Havana hoped relations with Washington would improve, Sanchez-Parodi gave the impression of expecting nothing new as a result of the current U.S. electoral year. He changed his tone when he spoke about the United States.

Washington, he said, "does not want to establish normal relations" with Cuba "because, arrogantly, it does not want to recognize our sovereignty, our independence, and our right to self-determination."

"There are no international reasons (to stop normal relations) and our bilateral problems could be, in practice, resolved if the United States had the will to establish relations," he added.

However, Sanchez-Parodi estimated, Washington "has no arguments left for its policy against Cuba and is absurdly attempting to present the argument that the Cuban Government is not a legitimate one."

Castro Confirms Trip to Galicia in Jul

PA2103200892 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1828 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Havana, 21 Mar (EFE)—Angel Garcia Seoane, mayor of Oleiros, Galicia, Spain, on 21 March during a news conference in Havana reported that Cuban President Fidel Castro has confirmed to the Galician mayors visiting Cuba that he will visit Galicia in July.

Garcia and other mayors and town council members of 22 Galician municipalities are visiting Cuba to voice solidarity and present to the government a shipment containing 11 tons of medicine, food, and school supplies.

Castro's visit to Galicia, where his father was born, will take place after the Ibero-American summit in Madrid. However, Garcia said, Castro gave no specific date to avert incidents during the trip that could be provoked by "counterrevolutionaries, Yankees, and their puppets."

Garcia also commented on Manuel Fraga Iribarne, president of the autonomous government of Galicia, whose visit to Cuba last year initiated a wave of contacts between the two countries, which have been traditionally linked by historical immigration.

The mayor of Oleiros, a communist, said that Fraga is "more Left than many of those who claim to be leftist" and added that his attitude toward Cuba is that of "a statesman."

The other mayors and town council members, who belong to various political groups ranging from socialist to conservative and were greeted by Fidel Castro this

week, said that they were impressed by the personality and historical importance of the Cuban president.

One of them, Jose Crespo, of the Popular Party headed by Fraga, pointed out that he opposes the U.S. blockade against Cuba; but he added that the visit to this country of the town council members in his group is intended exclusively to present this humanitarian aid and learn about the situation of Galicians in Cuba.

Castro Meets With Visiting Galician Delegation

FL2003140792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Last night, President Fidel Castro met with Angel Garcia Seoane, mayor of Oleiros, and the Galician delegation, which he heads, of mayors and town councillors from 22 city governments. Garcia Seoane gave Fidel a dossier that contained documents on actions approved by initiatives in Oleiros. These actions were approved by representatives of more than 4,000 Spanish municipalities, where the U.S. policy against Cuba has been unanimously condemned.

The leader of the Cuban Revolution was also presented with a plaque. The plaque was dedicated to Fidel and was given to him by Eladio Capon from La Ancara district, where Fidel's ancestors were born. The president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers thanked the Galician city governments that were present for their solidarity. He thanked them for their donation and their support in helping the Cuban people resist and overcome the difficulties of the current period.

Members of the Politburo attended the meeting, which took place in the Palace of the Revolution. Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Pedro Chavez, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government in Havana, also attended.

[In a similar report at 0900 GMT on 20 March, Madrid RNE International adds: "Cuban citizens Roberto (Calveiro) and (Raudel Antonio Rodriguez), freed from prison in Cuba thanks to Galician Prime Minister Manuel Fraga's moves, will arrive in Madrid today from Havana. The two men were serving 30-year sentences for crimes against state security. Roberto (Calveiro) and (Raudel Rodriguez) were taken directly from Havana's Combinado del Este Prison to the airport, a condition which the Cuban authorities also laid down for the release of 12 other prisoners over which Manuel Fraga also negotiated."]

Galicians Welcome Possible Trip by Castro

FL2103193092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Angel Garcia Seoane, mayor of Oleiros, said during a news conference with national and international reporters that they feel indebted to this wonderful nation which welcomed so many Galician families during difficult times for Spain. In reference to the pressures that he and his delegation might experience, Garcia (Seovani) said the following in support of the Cuban revolution:

[Begin Garcia recording] Being a friend of Cuba, or having the type of enemies Cuba has, has never worried me or my comrades in the Oleiros Municipality because a cause this beautiful comes only once in a lifetime. Those elements which I would call undesirables, there are so many undesirables right now in general, but they are not that many —the noise is greater than the amount of nuts—but they command good resources, have power, have money, and buy people off; but there are not that many. Besides, as a rule they tend to be cowards. [end recording]

Garcia Seoane affirmed that despite the threats by the U.S. Embassy in Galicia, Galician businessmen are progressing with the trade accords recently signed with Cuba, and the number of those interested in investing in Cuba is growing. Right now, the Galician delegation is visiting the Melena del Sur Camp. This afternoon the delegation will visit the Cuba Pavilion and will be received at the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The visiting Galician mayors said that all the political forces of Galicia have participated in the campaign of support for the Cuban Revolution and that all Galicians eagerly await a possible visit by Castro to Galicia. They added that it would be a great day, a Galician holiday.

Castro Tours Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise

FL2103163792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1331 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited areas of the Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise of Alquizar in Havana. Upon his arrival, Fidel went to El Cedro Camp where he held a friendly conversation with mobilized students from Havana. The leader of the Revolution asked the students about the food they receive and its quality. During his work visit to the Alquizar Municipality, the commander in chief also visited the Calderon 2 and Flor de Cuba camps where medical students enthusiastically talked with him.

Perez Villar, deputy director of the Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise of Alquizar, said the Cuban president was interested in the potato harvest and received expressions of commitment to every goal at each site he visited.

Commentary on Measures To Expedite Produce Sales

FL2103021092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 92

["Focus" commentary]

[Text] From now to mid-April, the harvest situation, especially in Havana Province, will be very tight because of the abundance and diversity of agricultural products. In recent analyses, the government has decided that the main problems are now in distribution delays, and has

issued guidelines for implementing essential measures to speed up the sale of produce to the public.

The most critical problems are in the capital, where the bonanza of tubers, vegetables, and fruit in recent weeks will increase significantly when harvests will be greater than estimated; a considerable reduction in losses has been achieved. Public demand has continued to exert strong pressure on the retail network in spite of increases in distribution. In previous years, for example, the average availability of these products varied between 30,000 and 40,000 quintals per day; today it exceeds 60,000 and there are days when it has exceeded 90,000.

In addition, the system of small and large agricultural markets designed to distribute products off the ration system is now causing excessive delays, given the need to distribute them on the ration system to facilitate appropriate levels of consumption, ensure the processing of some products, and above all accumulate larger reserves in the cold-storage centers and ensure that a variety of products will be available for several months because of the impossibility of producing them at other times of the year or buying them on what used to be our traditional markets.

The government's instructions are aimed at resolving these difficulties operationally by making retail center work hours more flexible to extend service during the week, including on Sundays, and by facilitating formulas that will allow workers to buy these products without the agonizing inconvenience of long lines. It has also been judged necessary to promote an increase in the number of employees who are truly necessary to improve service to the public, either by moving around the workers already in the retail sector, asking for support from other organizations, or through the actions of the people's councils.

The government is determined that nothing should go to waste, by putting into practice all possible initiatives and even offering greater variety to the public by processing the products that deteriorate most rapidly. Emphasis must be put on receiving immediately the results of this strategic effort. This effort shows that this country can produce basic foods with the necessary quantity and quality despite the serious difficulties caused by the disappearance of regular deliveries of materials imposed on us by the virtual double embargo. Improving services depends above all on increasing production. This is where we are now. With enough production and a high level of creativity in the local administrations, as the government has requested, we can cause a change in mentality, offering more efficient service and making the public feel truly satisfied.

First Quarter Economic Improvement Reported

PA2303011092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2104 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Havana, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Cubans ended the first quarter "of the socialist project's hardest year" with warehouses full of agricultural products that had disappeared months ago from the basic basket.

In most areas of Havana, food supply centers are full of products that made a sudden appearance during the first half of 1991, and later completely disappeared in the last six months of that year.

NOTIMEX toured the four most heavily populated areas of Havana and verified that agricultural products are being distributed in abundance in the majority of the government-owned commercial centers that control ration cards.

According to official forecasts, the lack of food will become more acute during the first quarter of this year. The lack of food has been affecting Cubans since the collapse of the Soviet Union—Cuba's leading commercial partner—in August 1991.

To the surprise of the majority of the population, Fidel Castro's government some days ago also authorized the sale of cigarettes to the public. The sale of cigarettes had been prohibited six months ago. Cigarettes are now being sold through ration cards.

Nevertheless, Cubans ended the trimester with a message of optimism about their economy. Until one month ago, the official position was one of catastrophe, and the government was warning people about the collapse of an economy that depended on the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

The newspaper TRABAJADORES, the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Union's (CTC) official newspaper, reported: "Fortunately, the debacle found us engaged in the application of the concepts and ideas of the rectification process. Thanks to that process, our national recovery is starting to take off little by little.

An editorial aired on the Cuban Government's official television station stated that "if we evaluate the situation in its general characteristics, we can conclude the difficulties of 1992 have hit rock bottom."

The editorial noted: "Nothing could get much worse during peacetime."

The Cuban Government's optimism is not only due to the abundance of agricultural products (potato, tomato, parsley, plantain, cabbage, etc.) being distributed in the government-owned commercial centers, or to the presence of a product such as chicken, which was conspicuous by its absence for more than four months, that is now arriving at Cuban ports, mainly from Venezuela.

The positive outlook of the Cuban leadership and the official media is undoubtedly due to the agreements the island has signed with more than eight CIS republics and various Asian, Latin American, and Middle East countries.

In December 1991, Ricardo Cabrisas, minister of Foreign Trade, and some other important government officials conducted a diplomatic trip to various countries with which commercial and scientific agreements have been signed.

The government's optimism does not preclude the possibility that the acute economic crisis might worsen and exacerbate the feeling of unrest that exists among the population, a feeling mostly due to the lack of food and the scarcity of urban transportation.

The rapid collapse of the now defunct Soviet Union—its leading ally for 30 years—disrupted Cuba's foreign market. With the patience of someone spinning yarn, Cuba is trying to win that foreign market back in the shortest possible time.

Some official figures indicate that the buying power of Cuba's exports fell by approximately 50 percent in the last two years.

According to some specialists, the collapse of the USSR was too fast for Cuba to reorganize its foreign trade.

According to diplomats consulted on the matter, the agreements Cuba has signed so far with the CIS republics will allow the island to achieve the reorganization of its foreign trade in 1992, "without depending upon only one nation."

During the last 30 years, 85 percent of Cuba's foreign trade was with the Soviet Union.

Cuba imported oil, food, chemical products, machinery, metal, powdered and canned milk, paper, medical equipment, means of transportation, primary products, and basic products for industry from the Soviet Union.

Cuba exported to the Soviet Union 30 percent of the citrus fruits consumed in the Soviet Union, nickel sinter and oxide, medical products, tobacco, and alcoholic beverages, among other products.

According to diplomats accredited in Havana and researchers, Cuba is diversifying its foreign trade with communist countries and with various nations whose economies revolve around neoliberal programs.

Meanwhile, until this happens, Fidel Castro's government is waging a battle on the Cuban front and is desperately pushing a food plan that is undermined by the lack of fuel, fertilizers, herbicides, and imported seeds.

Nuclear Power Plant Quality Controls Discussed

FL2103023092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia on the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] [Bel] The civil engineering for Reactor No. 1 of the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant in Cienfuegos will be completed this year as a result of the extraordinary efforts of the members of the Lenin Contingent, who are simultaneously working on Reactor No. 2. This information was given to us at the site by Contingent Chief and Engineer Nestor Fernandez Triana, who added that consultation continues with the former Soviet Union in the execution of the different stages of the main parts of the construction project, which is called the project of the century in our country.

Triana, you were going to say something about quality?

[Fernandez] Yes, I was going to talk about quality, which is very important. The [words indistinct] since the beginning, since the first day, 12 August 1982, when the first (?public perimeter) was placed, a quality control system has been in place. Naturally, it has been gradually renewed or adapted to new international requirements after all the events of Chernobyl and other places. Finally, we have a quality control program which, in our opinion and the opinion of many international specialists who have visited us, meets the safety requirements of the plant as such.

These three quality control systems, or the steps that make up our quality control system, plus a fourth stage in which we will directly participate, when we hand it over for final use to the future workers of the plant, plus all the technical safety and civil engineering regulations that have been drawn up in the Republic of Cuba and applied and checked by the workers—I repeat that all this makes us say that we are completely sure that we are building a safe (?plant).

As I was saying, the assembly of Reactor No. 1, assembly of heavy equipment, very heavy, specialized equipment, is being done in cooperation with a Soviet entity that is involved in the work; that is, we are working together. We do some of it and they assemble the heavy pieces, etc. I was saying that beginning this month, March, and over the course of the year, the heavy equipment should be installed in the reactor.

[Bel] To the above is added the training at different levels given to more than 400 workers, managers, and technicians at European nuclear power plants and a group that has received short training courses at capitalist plants.

Escalona Stresses Commitment to Construction

FL2003163892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has affirmed that the government is committed to support local solutions aimed at continuing the construction of housing.

In his statements to the press in Granma Province, the member of the Central Committee stressed that the special period arose when solutions to several social needs were getting off the ground, including the demand for new housing. After making reference to the boom that had been underway in the construction materials industry—which had to be halted—Escalona pointed out that there is a commitment to support and generalize local alternatives in accord with existing limitations. In this regard, he used as an example the family doctor

clinics and housing units built in Guisa and Jiguani with the so-called soil-cement which saves almost 50 percent of the cement traditionally used.

Machado Interviewed on Crime Reduction, SUVP

FL2003210292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Interview with Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, by reporter Luci Gispert in Havana on 20 March—recorded]

[Text] [Gispert] Comrade Machado, what do you think of the correlation of work done at the grass-roots level by the National Commission for Social Prevention and Attention and the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP]?

[Machado] Well, this has not been analyzed at this meeting but they are really complementary. As we have been able to observe, the Commission for Social Prevention and Attention, which has already been working for practically five years, has been creating the foundation, the structure, and training the cadres in all kinds of prevention activities, as the name says.

It has already obtained concrete results. It can really have an influence on the reduction of crime, but only up to a certain point, and then there is a need for repression to control crime. In cases where the commission cannot be effective, you need prevention in an operational sense, if you will, or a way to prevent criminal activities from being committed. This is what the SUVP provides.

Haiti

Belizaire: Not Yet Time for Assembly Session

FL2003173892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Senator Dejean Belizaire says the moment is not appropriate for an immediate, new convening of the National Assembly because of the disagreement existing among the parliamentarians. The senator and the deputies who are ready to vote on the agreement propose that this point be discussed at the Conference of Presidents.

The Senate president thinks the work for the ratification of the agreement should not depend on the parliamentarians alone. A consensus must first be reached in the country; then the Parliament could put the finishing touches to the work.

Senator Belizaire believes there are lessons to be learned from the National Assembly session held 18 March. [passage omitted]

Many observers think one of the attitudes that caused the failure of the National Assembly session on 18 March is the fact that the National Assembly president allowed too many motions. These criticisms came even from parliamentarians. The National Assembly president replies that he is being criticized for having allowed too many motions, true, but he cannot quarrel with anybody; each senator and each deputy is free to say what he wants. He explained that he could not ignore the parliamentarians' right to ask for a motion, but they did not limit their interventions. [passage omitted]

It was in the middle of a series of motions that Senator Julio Larosiliere, who was making an intervention, left the assembly and it was also at that moment that the quorum was invalidated. Senator Larosiliere says he regrets what happened and thinks it was (?only) an incident. [passage omitted]

Larosiliere: Loss of Quorum 'Unfortunate'

FL2003182392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Interview with Senator Larosiliere by correspondent Rothschild Francois, Jr., in Port-au-Prince on 19 March—recorded; italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] Several interventions took place at the Parliamentary session on 18 March. Those interventions were interrupted by numerous motions by the parliamentarians. History might remember the one by Senator Julio Larosiliere. The southern senator left the session following a motion granted by President Belizaire.

Other colleagues followed in Senator Larosiliere's footsteps. That situation led to the suspension of the session. The quorum had been invalidated on the Senate side.

Some parliamentarians will accuse Larosiliere of having being the leader of a boycott movement. Questioned by Radio Metropole, Senator Larosiliere rejects those accusations, stating that he did not think that some parliamentarians would follow his example.

[Begin recording] [Larosiliere] *My friend, they will say whatever they want without being aware that they are responsible for what took place. Because a human being has a limit. I accept what anyone tells me within certain limits. But at a certain point, I can not take it anymore. I told the president that if he could not control the session, I would be forced to leave. Then it started to degenerate. So, when I saw that, I was forced to leave. However, I was not expecting other parliamentarians to follow me. It is unfortunate that happened. Perhaps they supported my stand because they too wanted to speak and they realized that if they had come to the rostrum, what happened to me could have happened to them. As a consequence, they left. It is unfortunate. However, it took place. What can I do?*

[Francois] *Do you feel sorry for that?*

[Larosiliere] *If I had known that things would turn out this way, I would not have left.*

[Francois] *Were there any other reasons that incited you to do what you did on 18 March?*

[Larosiliere] *There is no other reason. On the contrary, I was developing a thesis. I was showing the parliamentarians that because there was a current executive, we could not meet rightfully in National Assembly. When we did so, it was because the executive was absent and we had the right to meet, based on our authority. We were forced to save the national sovereignty. We met by right.*

[Francois] *Senator Larosiliere, how do you see the outcome of this vote on the ratification of the Washington agreement?*

[Larosiliere] *Right now, I am very doubtful, because when a question of high interest is discussed within a parliament, a majority plus one can not solve it. It is necessary to have a consensus. Even if the majority plus one allows the winning vote, there will be half of the Parliament against it. What do you do then? I said it. The country is facing a very dangerous situation. It is a consensus that must solve the situation.* [end recording]

More on Suspension of Assembly, Alleged Bribe

FL2003220392 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A quorum was attained on the side of the deputies with 43 out of 65 deputies present at the beginning of the session, but a vote was lacking on the senators' side. There was a total of 13 out of 26 senators because of the absence of several—including Senator Serge Gilles, for example, who left the session for health reasons—who are in favor of ratification of the agreement. It was Senator Julio Larosiliere, the former senatorial arbitration committee president, who was going to give the presentation. Larosiliere said National Assembly President Dejean Belizaire prevented him from talking. Larosiliere left the session and was followed by a group of parliamentarians. How is the situation more than 24 hours after the suspension of the National Assembly for the ratification or the rejection of the Washington agreement? Let us listen to Emmanuel Laurent.

[Begin Laurent recording] The 18 March session ended without conclusive action, with quarrels and attacks against several deputies and senators who were present at the Legislative Palace on the occasion of the vote on the agreement that was signed in Washington. How is the situation at the Legislative Palace 24 hours later?

Very early, Deputy Josue Lafrance [Aristide opponent] arrived at the Chamber of Deputies with an metal baseball bat. He came to ask Deputy Jean Mandenave (?for an explanation) because Josue Lafrance had given Jean Mandenave 25,000 gourdes hoping that Mandenave would leave the session and invalidate the quorum. Jean Mandenave took the money, but remained faithful to his National Front for Change and Democracy position. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Senate Condemns Attack Against Parliamentarians

FL2003174792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report on a communique issued by the Senate of the Republic, in Port-au-Prince, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Office of the Senate of the Republic energetically condemns the attacks committed against Senator Turneb Delpe and Deputies Samuel Madistin, Edmond Mirol, Rindal Pierre-Canel, and Ernst Pedro Casseus on 18 March 1992. According to the Office of the Senate of the Republic, this is an act contrary to constitutional norms.

The Office of the Senate of the Republic presents its sympathies to these parliamentarians who were victims and it urges the Armed Forces and the police to be more alert so a happy solution can be found to the Haitian crisis.

This communique is signed by Senator Dejean Belizaire for the Office of the Senate.

Supreme Court 'Not Aware' of Executive Document

FL2003230792 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 2000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Lawyer Emile Jonassaint, president of the Supreme Court, has said that, up to 19 March, the Supreme Court judges were not aware of a document submitted to the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court by lawyers of the provisional executive. He specified that the petition initiative of the provisional government addressed to the Parliament with regard to the constitutionality of the Washington agreement has not come before the Supreme Court.

Furthermore, we have also learned that Senator Dejean Belizaire, president of the National Assembly, is about to ask several lawyers to challenge the opposing party. Remember that the opposition party is composed of lawyers Arnold Blain, Ramon Guillaume, and Mireille Durocher Bertin, who are responsible for defending the position of the executive.

Also remember that the executive had asked the Parliament to delay the debates in the National Assembly on the Washington agreement.

FNCD Calls For Support of Parliamentarians

FL2003230992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The National Front For Change and Democracy [FNCD] has noted that despite the presence of police forces at the Legislative Palace, placed there to guarantee the Parliament's safety, armed civilians were able to act with complete freedom in threatening legislators when they left the palace. Those individuals also took the working materials of some journalists, who were also attacked and arrested.

FNCD denounces the attack on Senator Turneb Delpe at the Legislative Palace after the session. It also condemns the threats and intimidation to which Deputies Pierre-Canel Rindal, Ernst Pedro Caseus, Samuel Madistin, Edmond Mirol, and the other parliamentarians who choose not to leave the room were subjected.

FNCD has asked the police to double its vigilance for the safety of our parliamentarians, who are only trying to defend the country's interests through their positions. FNCD is calling the nation's forces to rally in firm support ofr the parliamentarians, who are struggling for a return to constitutional order and democracy in Haiti.

Conacom Considers Agreement 'Only Option'

FL2003230892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Once again the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] is reminding everyone that the negotiated solution is the only option in the face of the crisis that has lasted too long and the risks of deterioration and degeneration. Conacom thinks that it is necessary to rally the civil, military, and religious forces of the nation in view of the ratification of the agreement signed in Washington on 23 February.

Conacom has taken this opportunity to salute the courage of the National Front for Change and Democracy parliamentarians and the others who did not leave the session and reiterates its full support in the struggle for the return of constitutional order and democracy in Haiti.

Trinidad and Tobago

Hassanali Begins Second Term as President

FL2003232792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 20, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's president, Noor Hassanali, has been formally sworn in as head of state for a second term of five years. Hassanali took the oath of office on the Holy Koran Thursday, swearing by Allah, to "bear true faith and allegiance to Trinidad and Tobago, preserve the constitution and the law, and to conscientiously and impartially discharge his functions as president."

In a short address, Hassanali thanked members of the electoral college for the confidence they had in him. "I accept the honour and responsibility with respect and humility," he told the gathering which included Prime Minister Patrick Manning and former Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

El Salvador

ONUSAL Member Asked To Leave Country

PA2103011092 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will soon find a solution to Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo's situation, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Dr. Manuel Pacas Castro said on 19 March.

Dr. Mattarollo, member of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL], Argentine jurist, ex-professor at the Paris University, consultant for the Inter-American Human Rights Institute in Costa Rica, and permanent ONUSAL adviser, has been asked by the Foreign Ministry to leave.

Without mentioning the reason and only saying that this is a "private and confidential situation," Pacas said to the press on 19 March that the problem is being discussed with ONUSAL, and the government is expecting Ambassador Iqbal Riza, who is out of the country, to settle it.

Pacas said that the relations between the Foreign Ministry and ONUSAL are excellent. He said: We have been discussing all things openly and frankly. Our relations are normal. Not only that; the ONUSAL people are our guests. The Salvadoran Government invited them here. Dr. Mattarollo's issue "can only be discussed with ONUSAL, and no one else, however."

He added that every measure has been taken to facilitate ONUSAL's work. The delegation's presence in El Salvador has been established through an exchange of letters. This exchange, which constitutes an agreement, has been ratified by the Assembly.

Regarding the possibility of the Legislative Assembly plenum questioning him, Pacas said he has already seen the questionnaire. He added: I admit the deputies have a right to question me. I have nothing to conceal. I can appear at the Assembly plenum if they request. I think, however, my appearance is not necessary. An explanation can be given without having to go to the Assembly.

Cristiani Comments on Case

PA2103141992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said on 20 March that he does not believe that Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo's case will affect relations between our country and ONUSAL, adding that he trusts the controversy will be resolved in a matter of days. President Cristiani said that a solution is being sought to the ONUSAL human rights adviser's case. Mattarollo was almost expelled from the country on 17 February. According to the president, the accreditation problem will be resolved. He added that the incident will in no way cause government-ONUSAL relations to deteriorate.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Opposition groups are trying to manipulate a case that is not that important. I do not believe it is such a critical issue. The accreditation problem was due to the way in which ONUSAL must travel—quickly and without time for anything. It was a result of the haste in bringing the verification group and facilitating the arrival of ONUSAL members. The issue of their accreditation was handled once they were here. [end recording]

Cristiani accused the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] of failing to implement the agreements that concern the separation of forces. The FMLN should have started to gather at 15 points on 15 March, as agreed in the meeting with Marrack Goulding [UN deputy secretary general], he said. The president asserted that 30 percent of the fighters have yet to obey.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The FMLN has failed to implement the schedule that deals with the separation of forces. In fact, it has violated the agreement reached with Mr. Goulding here, meaning that they would have gathered at the specified points by 15 March. The process has continued, and between 70 and 80 percent of the fighters had gathered in their specific zones by 20 March. [end recording]

Referring to the agrarian problem, the president has endorsed the land ownership rights of people who abandoned their land during the years of conflict. He emphasized that former owners have the right to return to their land and, if they do not want to sell it, current occupants will be relocated.

Human Rights Groups Protest

PA2003173492 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Mar 92 p 52

[Paid advertisement by the National Coordinating Board of Nongovernmental Human Rights Organizations]

[Text] The undersigned institutions belonging to the National Coordinating Board of Nongovernmental Human Rights Organizations hereby state the following:

When the public was informed on 17 March of a Foreign Ministry request to the ONUSAL to be advised of the time Dr. Rodolfo Mattarollo, a leader of ONUSAL's human rights division, would leave the country, it was also reported that the Salvadoran Government had not yet officially recognized them, eight months after the delegation members assumed office. This recognition has been conditioned upon Dr. Mattarollo, a well-known authority on human rights, leaving the country. ONUSAL, of course, as a matter of principle, cannot accept this.

In view of this situation, we state:

1. Neither the government nor the FMLN can veto the UN secretary general's designation of the ONUSAL members, a designation that is the result of lengthy negotiations. As stated in the San Jose Agreements, the UN secretary general

will consult with the sides only on the designation of the delegation leader, not on other members.

2. By refusing to acknowledge the ONUSAL members, the government authorities insult the UN's desire to cooperate with our country in restoring peace and establishing reconciliation and national reconstruction, thereby permanently harming the delegation's activities and exposing it to all kinds of pressure. This is what happened in this instance, with the ill-concealed attempt to deport a delegation member. The fact that this intimidating action has been taken against one member of ONUSAL's human rights division does not look like a coincidence to us.

3. This outrage against the status of a UN agency reveals the government's unwillingness and lack of interest in eradicating the serious evils of the past that led to war. In other words, this action reveals the government's intention to maintain business as usual. Because of this, as organizations that have pledged to defend and encourage human rights in El Salvador, we are asking the government to do the following.

First. To acknowledge immediately all ONUSAL members designated by the UN secretary general.

Second. To normalize immediately the immigration status of Dr. Mattarollo and his family.

Third. To apologize to the United Nations and the international community so that the national shame of the government's inappropriate behavior can be erased and the pledge to comply with the peace agreements can be reaffirmed.

[Signed] Study Center for the Application of Law; Monsignor Romero's Office for Christian Juridical Aid; Juridical Aid Office of the Lutheran Church; Human Rights Institute of the Central American University; Nongovernmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador.

FMLN Campaign Against Armed Forces Condemned

PA2103032892 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 21

[Text] On 19 March, General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas stated: "If the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] wants to attain power or the presidential seat through violence, the Armed Forces will not allow it. If they achieve that objective, it will have to be through the polls."

Vargas emphasized: "The polls are the popular form of expression we should all support, if and when the time comes. The FMLN will not attain power through violence, destabilization, or conspiracy—as long as the officers presently in the Army continue to wear the honorable uniform of the Armed Forces. That has to be very clear! This is a national Army, and it constitutes support for the nation."

Vargas condemned the campaign the FMLN and related sectors are waging against the Armed Forces with the purpose of changing the country's "institutions" through means other than the agreements.

He stated: "There are some things that cannot be accepted. First, it is a mistake to think the government is responsible for problems related to the peace process, and the FMLN is not also responsible for those problems. Those problems affect all Salvadorans because there is an attempt to modify the state of law by using pressure, in violation of the agreements."

Vargas asked: "Second, what is the reason behind the protests against the Armed Forces and the demands that go beyond the agreements, when the Armed Forces represent the legal aspect of the government, when they are the ones holding government institutions in place, when they are the ones supporting the legitimate government, when they are the ones offering an answer to the nation's desire for peace, when they are the pillars of the Republic? Why is the same not being asked of the FMLN? They are the ones who have to turn in their arms, dismantle their military structure, and stop occupying land."

He added: "If the FMLN starts working and accepts what the peace process is offering, the Armed Forces will withdraw and they will have no problems. It must be understood that the government is performing and will continue to perform its constitutional mission."

Vargas noted: "The FMLN must dismantle its structure and demobilize. That is why they were granted an 'amnesty.' They cannot go about demanding things that were not included in the agreements, much less now when the negotiations are over."

He stressed: "When the Armed Forces abandon the countryside, private property will be in the hands of seditious and socially disobedient persons who do not want to understand that this is a new country and that we will attain stability by means of the law and not by means of force."

Finally, Vargas concluded by stating that the political and power vacuum that will take place in the countryside will only increase the amount of land in the hands of persons who do not want democracy. As they say in their documents: "There must be massive appropriations of land to increase the quota of land in the hands of the popular movement."

Army Reports Ranks Reduced by 6,000 Troops

PA2203004492 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister General Juan Orlando Zepeda reported that the Army's ranks have been reduced by approximately 6,000 troops. He added that preparations are under way to dismantle five elite battalions in compliance with the peace agreements.

"We have stopped recruiting or replacing casualties, missing or demobilized forces, or those who have concluded their military service, which amounts to a reduction of 6,000 troops," Zepeda said.

Regarding the five elite battalions that fought for almost a decade against the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, Zepeda said they will be gone within the next few months, as established by the peace agreements.

President Alfredo Cristiani's government pledged to restructure the Armed Forces by reducing its ranks from 63,000 to 31,000 troops, 52 percent [figures as published], and to dismantle the two public security bodies. The FMLN must be disarmed and demobilized by October in order to join the country's political and civilian life.

Zepeda said that the former guerrillas have not complied with the phase to concentrate their forces in 15 established areas, in contrast to the Armed Forces that, coordinated by the UN Observers for El Salvador mission, have been confined to quarters in 62 areas

Concerning numerous reports from labor organizations calling for the dissolution of the two security bodies—Treasury Police and National Guard—that are still operating at their headquarters, Zepeda said that such reports have been made by "left-wingers."

The peace agreements establish that once the security bodies are dismantled, its members will be transferred to the Army.

Government, Rebel Leaders on Peace Agreements

PA2303043592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2058 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The consolidation of the peace process in El Salvador will only be possible if the peace agreements signed in January are complied with in "letter and spirit," representatives of the government and the rebels have agreed.

In a Mexican state-owned television program that will be aired on 22 March, Fidel Chavez Mena, leader of the Christian Democratic Party of El Salvador, said there are five points that have to be considered for this country to attain a satisfactory transition from war to peace.

These points are: consolidate democracy; establish a broad social understanding to improve levels of social justice; citizens security; consensus on the economic system; and larger international cooperation.

The future of the nation will revolve around these five points, for which "we Salvadorans will have to reconcile forces, the main goal of which is to eliminate disagreements once and for all," Chavez Mena noted. The Salvadoran peace agreement signed in Mexico in January will allow political alliances to be established in 1993 for the next presidential elections.

Chavez Mena said: "The 1994 elections will be the most important in this century for El Salvador. These elections can set the foundation for the new government to be the outcome of a consensus and for a shared and pluralist state to emerge."

Victor Valles, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement, noted that the fulfillment of the Salvadoran peace agreements "involves a meaningful task on the part of all the sectors." Referring to the follow-up process on the peace agreements, Valles stressed there are many groups dealing with the social, political, and economic problems of El Salvador and added that their good work will reap benefits for the nation.

Regarding the land ownership problem, Valles said the solution to this problem has been one of the armed conflict's goals because, as a rural nation, in terms of social justice, "to have a piece of land is one of the dearest longings of the Salvadorans." He said agrarian reform in this Central American nation is linked to peace and social justice.

Jorge Shafik Handal, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command, noted that the Salvadoran guerrillas are determined to fulfill the peace agreements "in its letter and spirit." Shafik added that peace is not yet consolidated because there are still some unsolved aspects of great importance to the community that could put the peace process in danger. One of these is in the military field because it was agreed to create a trustworthy police force.

He noted the Salvadoran Government has lacked the political will to eliminate the Armed Forces Security Corps "that have become a threat to the Salvadoran people."

"Although this was one of the points of the peace agreement reached by consensus, there are still no indications that the government wants to eliminate the Security Corps, from which the feared death squads emerged in the past," Shafik indicated.

Jose Francisco Guerrero, deputy and leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) said that in the Salvadoran peace process there are "enemies and detractors from all the political forces that have attempted to minimize the transcendental peace agreements."

"Now, the nation's democratic forces, as true friends, are embarked on El Salvador's reconstruction for national development," Guerrero stated.

He noted that ARENA "would accept in the future the people's choice in the coming 1994 elections to turn El Salvador into a new nation."

Clandestine Stations To Be Legalized 1 Apr

PA2103040292 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1815 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Radio Farabundo Marti and Radio Venceremos—stations that have been airing clandestinely for 10 years as

mouthpieces of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]—will begin broadcasting legally on 1 April, one of its directors stated on 20 March.

At the beginning of April, Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti will broadcast legally. These two radio stations have operated clandestinely as mouthpieces of the FMLN for over 10 years during the war . Radio Farabundo Marti Director [name indistinct] said they already have the necessary equipment; however, the only thing delaying them is a few adjustments that have to be made and the granting of the ANTEL [National Telecommunications Administration] resolution to begin operating legally in the capital. We have the Radio Farabundo Marti director's statements:

[Begin Radio Farabundo Marti director recording] We already have the basic structure with which we are currently operating, and we do not need any additional equipment. Basically, we are ready to begin transmitting; it all depends on how quickly we act now. The legal procedure is practically concluded. We even have [words indistinct] legal from ANTEL, except for some technical specifications with which we must comply. We hope that the resolution granting our operating license will be completed by the end of the month. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Justo Sierra, a Radio Farabundo Marti reporter said that the two radio stations will not be commercial, although they have agreed to look for financing in this area. At any rate, Sierra said the station will offer an opportunity to sectors that have never had access to the nation's media.

[Begin Sierra recording] [words indistinct] radio here in El Salvador and that will give sectors that have been denied the opportunity to express themselves a chance to broadcast their ideas, without being subject to [words indistinct] commercial sector. We have not ruled out that our station needs, to some extent, commercial activity to generate income for radio operation and production costs. Nevertheless, this is not going to be a commercial radio station, and neither is it going to be a radio station that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Radio Farabundo Marti and Radio Venceremos will be broadcast on one frequency—100.5 FM on the dial—subsequently, an analysis will be made to determine where the signal is not being clearly received to adjust the equipment so the station is heard nationwide.

[Begin Radio Farabundo Marti director recording] The frequency is going to be 100.5 FM. We are going to broadcast on one frequency with a network of repeaters. We will start with one station, and will broaden [words indistinct] where the FM frequencies are heard. This is the original plan we have for initiating operations. [end recording]

When reference was made to the announcement of a clandestine radical right radio station, the FMLN members downplayed this by saying this type of [words indistinct] is no longer valid within the nation's new reconciliation climate. Moreover, they indicated those stations are probably the transmitters that interfered with Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti frequencies during the war.

Honduras

CODEH Presents Annual Report on Human Rights

PA2103043892 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Tegucigalpa—According to the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH), the Honduran Government's weakness in confronting arbitrary military personnel and the lack of respect for and application of the National Constitution in 1991, showed that Honduras continues "being a country without justice for victims or punishment for the culprits because impunity reigns."

The CODEH, which is headed by Ramon Custodio Lopez, presented on 18 March its annual report on human rights violations. The report was presented to ambassadors from different countries, special guests, and journalists.

The speakers were Custodio Lopez, CODEH Vice President Oscar Anibal Puerto, and Antonio Zelaya, representative of the Northern Area.

In a communique delivered during the meeting, the CODEH reported that the human rights situation in a society portrays the conduct and actions of the government toward its people.

"The government's weakness toward the arbitrary civilian and military officials contrasts with the hard line shown in militarizing the worker-employer conflicts that caused forceful situations against the right to free association and to form unions."

The respect for and application of the National Constitution, or constitutionality and legality, continue to be a utopia, an unattainable dream, in the search for the legitimacy of the state and democracy.

"There is an injustice embodied in millions of Hondurans, because they are victims of hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and ignorance, unemployment and poverty, abuse of authority and insecurity, and inhuman planning in detriment of those whose only wealth is their work," states the communique.

According to the report, the CODEH proved the state's responsibility during 1991, through action and omission, for human rights violations—murders and abuses of authority—in which 72 persons were killed by members of the Armed Forces. Fifty-five of those were properly identified, and it is suspected that the remaining 17 were killed by members of the police.

The report states that in 1991, nine persons were killed for their political activities. The CODEH was able to present testimonial evidence showing the responsibility

of members of the Department of National Investigation (DNI) in these cases, in which the judges obstructed the investigations.

Regarding tortures and other cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment, the CODEH reported 156 cases, of which 51 were carried out by the police to force the victims to declare themselves guilty. In 68 other cases, the victims were tortured while they were at the Central Penitentiary.

According to the CODEH, there were 718 arrests without following legal requirements. This number is greater than the 359 cases reported in 1990.

It adds that the Supreme Court of Justice has still not solved the conflict of privileges created by military personnel who are tried at military courts after committing common crimes.

"Instead of listening to criticisms, investigating complaints, and allocating responsibilities, the authorities deny the facts and lie to protect the culprits, while putting the full weight of the evidence on the victims or their defenders."

"The current National Party government has shown at all times that its behavior toward human rights is almost the same as that of the two liberal governments that preceded it."

"The CODEH regrets saying that the administration headed by Rafael Leonardo Callejas has failed, up to now, in its policy of respecting human rights and eliminating the impunity of the Honduran military, who violate human rights and are guilty by action in 87.6 percent of those violations."

The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of Spain, Jose Lopez-Barron; Italy, Lodovico Masetti; Chile, Victoria Morales; and Germany, Walter Eickhoff; Luida Cowher, Human Rights representative from the U.S. Embassy and other representatives from Mexican organizations. The presence of Isabel Morel de Letelier, widow of Orlando Letelier, the murdered Chilean ambassador to Washington [as published], was also noticed.

Nicaragua

FSLN Demands Issuance of Land Certificates

PA2203040592 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 92 pp 1, 10

[Communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, Secretariate of the National Directorate, in Managua on 20 March]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate hereby informs the Nicaraguan people, especially the thousands of beneficiaries of Laws 85 and 86, of the following:

1. The right to own lots and homes obtained through the implementation of Laws 85 and 86 is an irreversible achievement no one can take away. The agreements of Phase II of the concerted effort and the veto of Law 133 at the end of 1991 definitively established the legitimacy and legality of all the property transfers carried out under those laws.

2. The annulment of those laws in no way affects the rights acquired by the people who benefited from them, who will continue to be the legal owners of their properties, as they were prior to the annulment of the laws.

3. The president of the National Assembly has ordered the proclamation of the remains of Law 133 to make everyone believe the rights granted by Laws 85 and 86 to thousands of Nicaraguan families are annulled. We denounce this as one of Cesar's political maneuvers to create anxiety and destabilization for his personal benefit.

4. The FSLN condemns and rejects the opportunistic and cruel behavior exhibited once again by this gentleman, who is determined to pursue social and political confrontations against the grain of major national and popular interests.

5. The FSLN hereby demands the government begin issuing Office for Territorial Organization certificates to the beneficiaries of Laws 85 and 86, who for months have been filing the necessary applications at that office. The unjustified delay in issuing these certificates only substantiates the intentions of the destabilizers.

[Issued] Managua, 20 March 1992

[Signed] FSLN Secretariat of the National Directorate

CNC, Government Agree To Resolve Land Issues

PA2203023492 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Carlos Garcia Castillo]

[Text] The National Peasant Coordinating Board (CNC) and the government have agreed on the need to formulate urgent alternatives to deal with the problem of the legal safety of land ownership, which is viewed by international organizations as one of the leading obstacles facing the agricultural sector.

Peasant leaders Luis Fley Gonzalez and Juan Ruiz announced the government and CNC's decision to form a high level technical commission to be in charge of formulating these alternatives by 5 April. The agreement between the government and the CNC makes the legalization of property in the areas of conflict a priority.

We urgently need to remove the cause of the serious tension Nicaragua's countryside is facing, said Luis Fley Gonzalez, known as "Commander Johnson" in the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. Fley said that it will be possible to accelerate pacification in the countryside if the

government fulfills its pledge this time, which is a fundamental condition for raising production levels.

The CNC, comprised by the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, peasants from the extinct RN, and demobilized members of the Sandinist People's Army, gave the central government until 1 April to respond to a number of demands it has made concerning production financing, legalization of agrarian reform titles, and the sale of agricultural products.

The negotiations between the CNC and the government, which began on 18 March, have reduced tensions that once existed between the two sectors due to the government's failure to fulfill the promises it made to the peasants who left the war in the hope of promptly joining civilian and productive life.

Cesar Accuses Lacayo of Alliance With FSLN

PA2103010992 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] On 19 March, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar accused Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo of "intensifying the co-government" with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. This assertion has been interpreted by the Sandinist faction as a "smoke screen" used by Cesar to conceal his recent political defeat.

Cesar said at a news conference that the economic cabinet's trip to Washington to meet with donor countries next week will make co-government with the FSLN "official" because "they will go with Daniel Ortega's support," without having invited any "hierarch" from the National Opposition Unity [UNO].

When asked about the Assembly president's accusations, President Chamorro's official spokesman Danilo Lacayo gave assurances to this newspaper that "the government invited" a member of the FSLN and one from the UNO.

"They must decide who they will appoint from their parties to accompany the government on the trip," he said. Lacayo pointed out that "the economic problems are nationwide" and are of concern to every sector in the country.

The chief of the Sandinist faction, Sergio Ramirez, told BARRICADA these accusations are a smoke screen to conceal Cesar's intransigence regarding the presidency minister's appearance before the plenum of the National Assembly.

The presence of the entire economic cabinet, which was proposed by President Violeta Chamorro, was rejected by Cesar on the grounds it would be an illegal procedure. In response, Lacayo announced that "none of the ministers would attend" the appointment.

The argument partially ended on 19 March when the UNO deputies requested "through the established channels" the attendance of the economic team, instead of the four ministers who had been summoned originally. The petition, approved by 52 favorable votes and effective on 4 April, was a political defeat for Cesar and a victory for Lacayo.

Nevertheless, Cesar, who also announced he would travel to El Salvador to meet with that country's military sector, forestalled the advantage obtained by Lacayo by extending the struggle to a new—and old—argument: He accused him of intensifying his alliance with the Sandinists.

Argentina

Further Reportage on Bombing of Israeli Embassy

Toll at 28 Dead, 235 Hurt

PY2003191892 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano has reported that the number of fatal victims of the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina now stands at 28, and 235 people were injured.

During a visit to the destroyed embassy, Minister Manzano said he wanted to watch the rescue work and personally see the size of the crater caused by the explosion.

In the early morning hours, Civic Defense personnel found four more bodies: two men, one woman, and one unidentified. The woman has been indentified as Mirta Saenz, secretary to Yitzhaq Shefi, the Israeli ambassador to Argentina.

Demonstrators Repudiate Bombing

PY2103022092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Mar 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Carmen Pignotti; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tens of thousands of people thronged 9 de Julio Avenue yesterday evening in a peaceful but strident show of repudiation of Tuesday's [17 March] terrorist strike on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

As people of all ages, religious and political colours stood together in painful silence near the embassy's ruins, Ambassador Yitzhaq Shefi movingly appealed for justice, not vengeance, and President Carlos Menem vowed that ties with the Jewish state would be bolstered by the tragedy, which may have claimed up to 40 lives.

Speaking from a podium near the scene of devastation, Menem said: "These terrorist beasts must understand that for every soldier of peace that falls, thousands more will rise from their blood.

"Ties with Israel will become more fluid," he promised, "they will be galvanized by this action." Shefi, deeply moved, said his embassy's doors remained open despite the massive destruction. He pledged no impunity for the attackers. Also addressing the massive crowd, which marched ten blocks from the Obelisk to just near the bombing site waving Argentine and Israeli flags, Delegation of Argentine Israeli Associations (DAIA) leader Ruben Beraja lambasted the "cowardly attack.

"Each of the dead victims is one of ours, independently of creed or nationality," said Beraja, praising the outpour of fraternal solidarity.

Most shops lining 9 de Julio Avenue closed their shutters at 5 pm as requested by CAME [Coordinating Agency for Mercantile Activities] and Fedecamaras retailers associations in support for the march.

The turnout of some 65,000 was so overwhelming that DAIA organizers were unable to keep the columns of peaceful protesters from reaching the vicinity of the bombing site before the speakers. Members of Menem's cabinet, Buenos Aires Archbishop Antonio Quarracino, ex-president Raul Alfonsin, legislators, artists, sportspeople and prominent leaders representing all sectors of society turned up to join the clamour "against terrorism and for peace, life and democracy."

In one of the most emotional moments, Ambassador Shefi said: "this morning I accompanied two coffins and eight orphans to board a flight back to Israel. Due to their age these children may never understand what men can do to man, but they will find that their mothers are no longer there to pick them up after school. We are all responsible for their future."

Shefi warmly thanked all volunteers who have joined efforts to aid victims of Tuesday's bombing as well as the civil defence, firemen and police crews working in the areas.

"The Jewish people did not need this tragedy to show their unity," he added, demanding justice but not vengeance for this crime of lesser humanity.

Menem, in turn, said "we must all become aware that there are terrorist organizations invoking the name of God to try and shatter peace and take the lives of men and the nations those people form."

"But we are determined to set up a barrier against these acts of barbarism, because nothing can be gained with violence," he said.

To shouts of approval from people in the crowd, Menem said: "Argentina will always raise the banner of peace, of agreement, of faith and love... the love that has enabled the reuniting of communities that have clashed over many centuries of decades."

The President also had very harsh words for "traffickers of hate and death," who "must understand that it is impossible to kill because of hatred, resentment and death. Nations like Argentina and Israel, that have experienced terrorism and violence because they were victims of this scourge, evidently will turn this experience into a factor of unity," he said.

Finally, Menem promised the Israeli community that the government would leave no stone unturned until those guilty of the bloody attack were brought before justice. He confirmed that foreign specialists, meaning the CIA and Israeli intelligence services, had been asked to help the investigation.

Police Issue Communique

PY2103190692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1414 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM)—The Federal Police reiterated this morning that at the time the attack on the Israeli Embassy occurred, "the only Federal Police officer assigned to security there had left the embassy a few minutes earlier with the Israeli ambassador."

Here is the text of an official communique released by the Federal Police press office:

"The Argentine Federal Police hereby reiterate that on the day of the attack on the Israeli diplomatic mission, the only Federal Police officer assigned to security there had left the embassy a few minutes earlier with the Israeli ambassador for the latter's private residence.

"It is hereby again stated that the area is permanently patrolled because it encompasses other diplomatic missions.

"No administrative investigation is being conducted because no one has engaged in dereliction of duty."

Five Suspects Arrested

TA2203054292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] TELAM, Argentina's official news agency, reported that the Federal Police antiterror unit has arrested five suspects in connection with the bombing of the Israeli Embassy. The report stated that the group included four men and one woman. They were arrested yesterday after the antiterror unit raided an apartment in downtown Buenos Aires. No further details were released.

A Federal Police spokesman said he had no information regarding the official news agency's report. A senior Interior Ministry official said the Islamic Jihad organization remains the prime suspect in the murders.

UPI also reported the arrest of suspects in Argentina. The report said that six people were arrested, including one woman, in a city located approximately 300 km north of Buenos Aires.

Embassy Armory Found Intact

TA2203212792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Teams removing rubble from the site of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires have reached the embassy's armory and extracted 15 Uzi submachine guns, 10 handguns, and 1,000 bullets. Reporter Natan Steiner notes that the quantities and brands of these weapons match a list conveyed by Ambassador Shefi. According to him, this proves that the theory extended by several local newspapers that there had been explosives in the armory was unfounded.

As for the four detained persons, no information other than the fact that they are Pakistanis has been divulged. According to Steiner, there is no hope of finding any more survivors. The raps heard yesterday by the teams were not heard today. The Civil Defense is now considering knocking down the remaining building walls.

Country 'Attractive' to Criminals

PY2303005892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Foreign Minister Guido di Tella yesterday said Argentina had become "more attractive" for criminal attacks, such as last week's brutal bombing of the Israeli Embassy, in view of the prominence it has gained in recent years in the international concert of nations.

"I don't think we've taken on any problem we shouldn't have taken on," the minister said when asked if Argentina risked becoming the scene of the conflict between Arabs and Israelis.

Argentina "now has problems resulting from being inserted in the world, and we have a new responsibility because we are a trustworthy nation.

"We are members of the so-called Western alliance and therefore must accept all the advantages and disadvantages this brings," said di Tella.

Asked about Argentina's position regarding the Middle East conflict, the foreign minister said that as member of the United Nations, Argentina endorsed peace initiatives proposed by the international organization.

"The United Nations were stuck for 40 years in the East-West conflict, but now that it has disappeared the UN has a growing role in peace efforts, which we have joined," he said.

Di Tella also referred to anti-Semitism as "an extremely grave" problem for Western cultures and called for its definite eradication.

"In Argentina, unfortunately, we've had certain anti-Semitic minority sectors and I think that eliminating what's left of those feelings is part of our domestic and foreign policy."

"The attack," concluded Di Tella, is part of a phenomenon which has also happened elsewhere in the world. We can't say this isn't happening to us because in fact it can happen as we live more and more in a single world." [quotation marks as published]

Di Tella's statements were harshly criticized yesterday by Radical Deputy Leopoldo Moreau, who requested a congressional briefing by the foreign minister as well as Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano.

Moreau wondered "through which door of (President Carlos) Menem's international policy this criminal attack came through," mentioning as possibilities "the deployment of troops in the Persian Gulf, the alleged

unpaid debts of (Menem's) electoral campaign or the dismantling of the Condor missile project."

"We have many questions and the answers should be provided in the Lower House by the foreign and interior ministers," said Moreau.

The Radical legislator, who heads the party's Renewal and Change Movement in Buenos Aires province, also slammed Di Tella for saying the attack should not make Argentina return to isolationism. "Is isolationism having peace militants in the Contadora group, or winning international prestige by promoting nuclear disarmament (during the former Radical administration)?" he wondered.

"Transporting the frivolity of internal politics to the international scene is not the right tack," said Moreau.

In other reactions, jailed ex-Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin denied any connection with the terrorist attack and blamed Menem for "importing conflicts and terrorist methods completely foreign to Argentina's way of life and the feeling of its people."

In statements published by the Bahia Blanca daily La Nueva Provincia, Seineldin asked how long Menem would "continue using the pain of others to benefit his own selfish interests, his vanity and narcissism."

Seineldin, who led the bloody carapintada [painted face] Army rebellion on December 3, 1990, also blasted Menem for having included the rebel Army faction in his list of suspects immediately after the embassy blast.

"Since December 3 of 1990, Menem has invariably, mechanically and irresponsibly identified the so-called carapintada movement with all acts of violence around the country," said the cashiered Army colonel.

Brazil

Environment Secretary, Ibama President Dismissed

PY2103171492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor dismissed Environment Secretary Jose Lutzemberger this morning. Education Minister Jose Goldemberg will be acting secretary until the end of the UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED].

Lutzemberger's dismissal was first considered in the middle of the week.

During a 19 March news conference, Secretary Lutzemberger denied that he had tendered his resignation and said that there was a campaign at the Brazilian Institute for Environmental Affairs and Renewable Natural Resources [Ibama] to destabilize his administration. He added that he knew about corruption charges inside Ibama.

[Begin Lutzemberger recording] The Ibama department that controls sawmills and lumber companies has been working as a subsidiary of the sawmills and lumber companies. The department hands out blank forms for industry businessmen to sign. [end recording]

Ibama directors reacted by saying that all charges had been investigated and the employees involved had been dismissed. Upset about Lutzemberger's charges, Ibama President Eduardo Martins and all board members tendered their resignations. Ibama employees supported the board members' decision and filed a petition to the courts requesting that the environment secretary clarify his charges.

As a result of the confrontation between Lutzemberger and Martins, President Collor decided to dismiss both of them. The president of the Republic signed their dismissal this morning during a meeting with Presidential Secretary General Ambassador Marcos Coimbra.

Goldemberg will be responsible for the Environment Secretariat until the end of the UNCED. After being installed on 23 March, he will appoint a new advisory team.

Economy Minister Denies Public Debt Increase

PY2103150692 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro today, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira denied that the public debt had grown 4 percent in February compared to the same month in 1991.

According to Minister Marques, the public debt is under control. He explained that the end of the freeze on new cruzados has turned the public debt into a floating debt [divida mobiliaria].

[Begin Marques recording] [Words indistinct] turning new cruzados into a floating debt; in other words, a debt in the hands of the people. This is quite normal. One of the government's most important goals is to achieve the state's fiscal recovery, thus allowing the government to attract domestic credit and defer and increase its debt in order to control monetary expansion. [end recording]

Minister Marques, however, admitted that the value of the public debt in February fluctuated, but said that that did not jeopardize negotiations for an agreement with foreign debt creditors. The minister explained that the creditors disagree with our government. Brazil demands that its ability to honor its debts be respected, but the debtors want shorter and more favorable terms of payment.

After the opening class at the Catholic University's Economics School, Marques asserted that we are about to reach an agreement. The minister was received with banners bearing slogans criticizing the recession and heard the students' protests over the high fees charged by the university, that is, almost 200,000 cruzeiros.

At the end of the ceremony, when he was getting into his car, he chanted with a group of students: Down With Recession.

International Coffee Agreement Discussed

PY2103151092 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Clodoaldo Hugueney, head of Itamaraty's Economic Department, has disclosed that Brazil wants to include economic clauses in the international coffee agreement.

Brazil's reinsertion in the International Coffee Organization was announced yesterday during a meeting at the Economy Ministry by representatives from the Economy and Foreign Ministries and from the private sector.

According to Hugueney, consultations with the private sector continue in an effort to define Brazil's position at the International Coffee Organization meeting scheduled for early April in London.

Hugueney did not discuss the alternatives Brazil is assessing. He said that the market is very sensitive, that prices are very low, and that any misinterpreted measure might even worsen the coffee price in the international market.

Hugueney hopes that this agreement that will be signed by Brazil will benefit the international coffee market and Brazilian coffee growers.

Collor, Rezek Meet Hungary's Jeszenszky

LD2003110492 Budapest MTI in English 1012 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Brasilia, March 20 (MTI)—Brazil considers Hungary as a particularly important partner in Eastern Europe, Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek told his Hungarian counterpart Geza Jeszenszky in Brasilia on Thursday. The Hungarian foreign minister stressed that only the fall of communism and the stabilization of Latin American democracies could give a genuine meaning to relations.

Paying an official visit to Brazil, on Thursday Jeszenszky made a courtesy call on Presidents Ibsen Pinheiro of the Chamber of Deputies and Mauro Benevides of the federal Senate. After meeting Minister Sidney Sanches, president of the Supreme Federal Tribunal, Jeszenszky conferred with his Brazilian opposite number.

Jeszenszky and Rezek shared the view that the favourable developments in Latin America and the historical changes in East Central Europe may open a new chapter in inter-regional relations, in which Hungary and Brazil could play a very important, initiating role. Focusing on bilateral relations, the sides termed it as important to raise the two countries' intensive economic cooperation on an even higher level. Rezek said that Brazil has a vested interest in developing commerical, industrial, technical and scientific cooperation. Jeszenszky expressed the hope that the Brazilian authorities would give the go-ahead to some inter-company deals which would considerably increase the volume of two-way trade. The international affairs discussed included the Yugoslavian situation and the modernization of the United Nations. The ministers signed an agreement on cultural cooperation.

Jeszenszky made a call on federal President Fernando Collor, who appreciated Hungary's role in the East Central European changes. Brazil can be a stable partner for Hungary in the long term, the president said. Jeszenszky confirmed the president's invitation for an official visit to Hungary.

The foreign minister delivered a paper in the Rio Branco diplomat-training institute.

Concluding his tour in five Latin American countries, Jeszenszky is to leave for home on Friday.

Pinochet Arrives in Brazil, Visits Arms Company

PY2303024292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Gabriel Caniguante from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] According to local media, General Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean Army commander in chief, is visiting Brazil. Gen. Pinochet arrived in Brazil from Quito on a plane supplied by Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.], a Brazilian arms company.

Pinochet is in Sao Jose dos Campos in Sao Paulo State where Avibras and Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] have factories. According to local reports, the Chilean general is interested in Brazilian-made military equipment. That information, however, has not been confirmed by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry or the Brazilian Air Force Ministry.

Pinochet will not meet with Brazilian Government officials during his brief visit, only with Avibras executives. This is Gen. Pinochet's second visit to Brazil in less than one year. Last May Pinochet spent several days in Rio de Janeiro on a private visit. Pinochet's previous visit prompted several protests in front of the hotel where he was staying by both Chilean residents and Brazilians.

According to local media, Pinochet's latest visit will be brief. It is shrouded in mystery due to the lack of official information on his trip.

* SAE Undergoes Restructuring; Rezek Resists

92SM0304A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 92 p 5

[Article by Tania Monteiro and Leticia Borges]

[Text] Brasilia—Two years after it was created, the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs (SAE), of the Presidency of the Republic, which replaced the National Intelligence Service (SNI), is undergoing its first restructuring. The changes cover everything from the organizational chart of the Secretariat to its doctrine, and were motivated by a draft bill now before the Congress. Even before it came

up for a vote, the bill opened up a controversy that involved not only the parties but the government itself. Foreign Affairs Minister Francisco Rezek is one of the critics of the changes, since plans for the SAE call for the formation of a network of intelligence attaches in the Brazilian embassies abroad.

Rezek claims he is not alone in resisting the creation of the network. According to the minister, President Fernando Collor disapproves of the bill, which within Itamaraty is called the "Araponga Law." According to Rezek, Collor was "dismayed" and "went into orbit" when the minister informed him of the content of the bill. The proposal is rejected by the minister's advisors, and their position was expressed jointly with that of the Brazilian diplomatic corps to Senator Eduardo Suplicy (PT/SP [Workers Party/Sao Paulo]) after the latter paid a visit to Rezek in an attempt to win over backers for the task of barring passage of the bill in the Congress.

The modifications in the structure of the SAE, pending passage of the bill, begin with the creation of an Office of Coordination of Strategic Affairs, under Secretary Pedro Paulo Leon Ramos, which will be responsible for overseeing political, economic, and psycho-social matters. In the reform bill, this unit appears to be a mini-headquarters of the old SNI. Previously, the function was exercised by one of the sectors in the Intelligence Department (DI), which, with the reorganization, will oversee the international area.

Doctrine

The end of the cold war and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe compelled the SAE to redirect its operational doctrine. The enemies today are said to be in the area of science and technology, an adaptation that follows the world trend. The American CIA, for example, is also going through a period of adapting its activities. Argentina, Brazil's neighbor, is reformulating its intelligence service.

The primary concern of the SAE at this time is industrial espionage and counter-espionage. The Brazilian "snoops" ["arapongas"] are worried and are preparing to confront foreign companies or individuals who are interested in stealing data and knowledge acquired and developed in Brazil.

This is why the Secretariat added an amendment to the draft bill, providing for the formation of the network abroad, linked to the embassies, arguing that it is for the protection of national interests. Analyses by the Secretariat's strategy experts conclude that although Brazil is a member of the bloc of Third World countries, it has developed various types of technologies coveted by the First World, particularly in the field of industry.

Network Criticized

Brasilia—Itamaraty's irritation with the reforms in the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs is directly related to the shakeup of duties of the Intelligence Department, which is prepared to take on an international mission, i.e., the establishment of a network of informants abroad. The Foreign Ministry, via Minister Francisco Rezek, sees the initiative as the formation of a structure parallel to that of the embassies for espionage and counter-espionage, with no ties to the Foreign Ministry. In the SAE, however, the officials are being cautious, neither confirming nor denying the plan, which is considered secret.

The strategists in the Secretariat argue that the duties of the Intelligence Department cannot be performed by career servants of Itamaraty, who lack professional training in intelligence and counter-intelligence. They explain that not even the military attaches are equipped to perform such functions. With the new policy, the Intelligence Department would turn its activities to protection of the state, no longer serving the president of the Republic and supplying him with intelligence. With the exchange, this mission went to the Office of Coordination of Situational Affairs, subordinate to the new Undersecretariat for Strategic Affairs, directed by Professor Flavio Duarte, former chief of the Intelligence Department.

Five other departments, commissions, and offices of coordination function under the direct command of Leoni Ramos. The Department of Microstrategy is responsible for the government's strategic planning, while the Department of Special Programs is responsible for such projects as the Calha Norte. The National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) is in charge of programs in the nuclear area. The Center for Research and Security of Communications (Cepesc) is engaged in protecting the telecommunications sector. There is also the Center for the Training and Improvement of Manpower Resources (Cefar) and the old National Intelligence School.

Failings

Despite the revisions of its structure and objectives, technicians in the sector and military advisors say the SAE is still inoperative and a failure at its mission of supplying President Fernando Collor with the information necessary to the exercise of his office. The deficiency has been covered by the intelligences services of the Armed Forces, the Federal Police, and the security service of the Planalto Palace itself, say critics of the Secretariat. Even the state police have been providing information to the government.

One of the recent trump cards of opponents of the SAE and of the government's present intelligence system—part of which is the responsibility of Itamaraty—was the incident of the military insurrection in Venezuela. Collor did not receive any prior intelligence report and the uprising took him by surprise.

In the Congress, the criticism of the SAE is getting louder. Deputy Jose Genoino (PT/SP [Workers Party/Sao Paulo]), calls for the elimination of the Secretariat and accuses it of going beyond "its functions, creating a legion of "multicolored snoops" ["arapongas coloridas"], a reference to the

proposal to set up a network of intelligence agents in the embassies. "The activities of the Secretariat are unclear and cloaked in a mantle of clandestinity." The deputy recommends that the Federal Police take over the activities now carried out by the SAE.

Almost completely demilitarized, the SAE is also confronted with employees who are unhappy with their salaries. Many specialists have left the Secretariat, lured by offers of better jobs and higher pay. The average wage of the technicians is currently 300,000 cruzeiros and intelligence analysts, at a higher level, receive 600,000 cruzeiros.

Bill Defines Role, Requires Biannual Report

Brasilia—Paralleling the internal reform promoted by the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs, the Chamber Defense Committee is considering a draft bill regarding intelligence activity and its oversight and control. The text defines, as an attribute of the intelligence activity of the government, the "collection of data and the assessment of foreign situations that imply an external threat, veiled or disguised, capable of hampering or impeding the fulfillment of the strategic interests of Brazil in the international scene."

The draft bill permits intelligence agents to engage in actions directed to the "identification, evaluation, and neutralization of espionage promoted by foreign intelligence services or other foreign agencies, linked to governments or otherwise." According to the text, the mission of the "snoops" includes "protection of the scientific and technical information that, in the interest of the security of the society and the state, is considered secret."

Analysts in the area believe that, to carry out these tasks, the SAE will have to hire specialized personnel for the work abroad. In lining up this team, the Secretariat will not have to meet with the approval of any citizen. The draft bill under consideration takes care of this detail, ensuring secrecy, by stating that "the structure, organization, and functions of the intelligence organ of the SAE are exempt from publication."

Cautiously, anxious to avoid problems with the deputies and senators, the SAE specialists added an amendment to the text, requiring that a secret report on intelligence activities be submitted to the Congress twice a year. Moreover, the bill gives the Congress the task of overseeing and monitoring the exercise of intelligence activity, "in order to guarantee and safeguard the Constitutional precepts, particularly the rights of the citizens and public liberties."

The bill states that it is a "crime for which no bond may be posted, and which may not be nullified by prescription, to violate or attempt to violate the secrecy" of the matters presented in the semiannual reports. The penalty for violation is a five- to 10-year prison term. In the case of inadvertent violation, i.e., when there has been no intent to violate secrecy, the penalty ranges from three to five years in confinement.

Chile

Ecuador Concerned Over Pinochet's Visit

PY2003152692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to Ecuador Bernardo Julio Contreras has said that the problem prompted by an unexpected visit by General Augusto Pinochet, who spent 24 hours in Quito before leaving for Guayaquil, has been overcome.

Contreras was called by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, who conveyed to him the concern of the Ecuadoran Government over General Pinochet's untimely visit to Quito.

The local Foreign Ministry has stressed that the meeting between Contreras and Cordovez was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

The communique concludes by pointing out that Foreign Minister Cordovez and Ambassador Bernardo Julio Contreras emphasized that the situation does not in any way alter the friendly and fraternal relations traditionally maintained by the Ecuadoran Government and people with the Chilean Government and people.

Acting Army Commander Comments

PY2003190892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] General Jorge Lucar, acting Army commander in chief, has reiterated that General Pinochet's trip is a private vacation. Lucar also assumed full responsibility for calling the corps of generals.

[Begin Lucar recording] As acting Army commander in chief, under my exclusive responsibility, two nights ago I had to call the corps of generals to inform them and review the situation because the High Command cannot be exposed to interpretations; it must be well informed. As a result, the meeting's conclusions were reported to the defense minister, who has reported them to the media. We, of course, reject that type of offense against our commander in chief, an offense that we consider absolutely unnecessary. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gen. Lucar added that, in the face of the offense against the Army commander in chief, the entire corps of generals expresses its absolute support for him. [passage omitted]

Asked about the political espionage for which Army members had been investigated, Gen. Lucar said the corps of generals is concerned about the situation, but the government has already taken measures. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch, the Navy commander in chief, pointed out that he is studying the background information on the espionage case as this is a matter that concerns the Navy.

[Begin Martinez Busch recording] When there are actions of this type, everyone begins to worry about what is happening and feels unsafe. An action and counteraction game ensues that is very delicate. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Pinochet Trying to Counter U.S. 'Hegemony'

PY2103132692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (EFE)—Chilean rightist Senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa today said that the objective of General Augusto Pinochet's visit to Ecuador and other countries is not to make a tourist trip, but to try to contact other military chiefs to counter the hegemony that the United States assumed—without any counterbalance—after the Gulf war.

Jarpa, a senator for the rightist National Renewal Party (RN), said he does not believe in the explanation that Pinochet is on vacation, which has been given to justify the trip by the Chilean Army commander in chief and former president (1973-90), who unexpectedly showed up in Quito on 18 March.

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja said that Pinochet was not welcome in his country, a statement that prompted the Chilean Government to lodge an official protest. The two governments, however, consider the matter closed.

Jarpa, who during the Pinochet administration held the posts of interior minister and ambassador to Argentina and Colombia, emphasized that during the trip by the Army commander there will be contacts with military commanders to counter the hegemony that the United States assumed after the Gulf war and the disintegration of the socialist world.

In statements to the press, the senator said that "there can be other visits, considering the attitude of total military control that the U.S. Government has assumed in Latin America and in other parts of the world," adding that he supports this alleged initiative by Pinochet.

Asked whether this means that the armies of the continent will be acting outside legal governments, Jarpa said that according to reliable information, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin "is not only aware of it, but has authorized the trip."

He added that the Armed Forces "are a very important factor for the foreign policy of nations," in connection with "the right to sovereignty and nonintervention of foreign governments in their domestic affairs." He also charged the United States with pressuring Latin American countries to align themselves to suit U.S. interests.

Since the Persian Gulf war, the United States has adopted "attitudes that are very inappropriate for the future of good relations, because it intends to become the decisive power in what Latin Americans have to do," Jarpa said, adding that in light of this, it is very important for the armed forces of the continent to hold common views.

The Chilean press today published leaked reports that say Pinochet will go from Ecuador to Brazil and then the Bahamas, Honduras, and Argentina. Before his trip, however, it had been said that he would travel to Israel and some European countries.

Socialists Disagree With Protest Over Pinochet

PY2103153292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Socialist Deputy Camilo Escalona said that his party does not agree with the Foreign Ministry's decision to register a protest with the Ecuadoran Government for declaring General Pinochet, Army commander in chief, persona non grata.

[Begin Escalona recording] It is clear that the Foreign Ministry's attitude was the consequence of certain pressures. We know the Foreign Ministry did not act on its own decision. We are aware that the Foreign Ministry is acting in a conditioned political context, but we still want to make it clear that it is not possible for a democratic government, precisely because of the conditioned context in which it functions, to take positions that create a totally wrong image of Chile abroad. Our country, and the democratic government, appear before the international community to be taking the side of the former dictator. We do not agree with that, and we feel the population must know it, even though we understand the context in which the Foreign Ministry is acting. [end recording]

Escalona said there were pressures such as the generals' meeting on 18 March behind the Foreign Ministry decision. Escalona also accused the Independent Democratic Union of using the report on political spying to undermine the government's authority over the civilian police and disqualify retired Director General Horacio Toro's good work.

Investigative Police Chief Tenders Resignation

PY2003211692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] Investigative Police Director General Horacio Toro, retired, has tendered his resignation to the president of the Republic.

This was announced a few minutes ago by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who added that the president will make a final decision after General Toro submits his resignation in writing.

Other Officials Resign

PY2103040092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] There was intense activity at Investigative Police headquarters this afternoon after Intelligence Police Department Chief Guillermo Mora confirmed that his resignation was accepted. Unofficial sources have also reported that Investigative Police Director Horacio Toro's resignation was accepted. It has been learned that General Horacio Toro, retired, remained in his office, where he held meetings with the Investigative Police high command. [passage omitted]

Speaking to Radio Cooperativa, Intelligence Department Chief Guillermo Mora said: I assume full responsibility for the situation and leave with my head held high. The police chief expressed consternation over the situation, but he has assumed responsibility for the case with a dignified attitude.

[Begin recording] [Mora] I leave the police with my head held high. I have assumed full responsibility for my actions. The police director was completely ignorant of the guidelines I disseminated; therefore, I would like to excuse myself to those concerned.

Now is not the time to speak. In the future we will have time to discuss this further. I tendered my resignation to the interior minister about five days ago when the issue became public. My resignation has been accepted; therefore, I would like to leave in silence because I am still a government employee. [passage omitted] [end recording].

Answering questions at Government House today about the attitude of Intelligence Police Department Chief Guillermo Mora, who has accepted full responsibility for the espionage charges raised by the UDI [Independent Democratic Union], Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said: This is not the time to say that intelligence activity should not exist in a democratic state. That assertion is false, and such a thing would be a threat to Chilean society. Rojas said Mora has adopted a professional and ethically responsible attitude.

[Begin Rojas recording] I do not think this will change the responsible, ethical, and noble gesture that Gen. Toro has adopted by tendering his resignation. [end recording]

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas praised Gen. Toro's actions as head of the Investigative Police and asserted that over the past year, no legislator, Armed Forces commander, or military officer has complained to him about illegal investigative proceedings.

Asked whether Horacio Toro will be the only one held responsible in the case, Patricio Rojas said:

[Begin recording] [Rojas] The government must make that decision. It is up to the government to decide how to solve the Investigative Police situation. What I would like to note is that Gen. Toro and the Investigative Police authorities responsible for this situation have adopted a responsible, ethical, and noble gesture....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] But do you think that Gen. Toro....

[Rojas, interrupting] It is at crucial times such as these that we must act decisively and note that a democratic state must have an intelligence service that operates on the basis of established laws. This situation does not mean that there should be no intelligence activities in a democratic state. That is false and would be a threat to Chilean society. [end recording] [passage omitted]

As we have already reported, the government has accepted the resignation of Investigative Police Director Horacio Toro. Investigative Police Deputy Director Nelson Mery has been appointed acting Investigative Police director. The following is a report by Manola Robles.

[Begin recording] [Robles] A few minutes ago, Interior Minister Enrique Krauss reported that the president has accepted the resignation of Investigative Police Director Horacio Toro. Krauss also reported that Investigative Police Deputy Director Nelson Mery has been appointed acting Investigative Police director. After waiting all day for a government decision on this issue, Interior Minister Enrique Krauss disclosed this information a few minutes ago during a news conference.

[Krauss] We hope that those who raised these charges—who in the past tolerated with their silence actions carried out by security organizations that have fortunately ceased to exist—will act with the same diligence in the face of any situation that may undermine the human rights safeguarded by current laws.

[Robles] [passage omitted] Krauss added that the government reasserts its decision to safeguard citizens' rights, particularly their privacy. In view of this, it has ordered a revision of current intelligence regulations so they may be in line with democratic and constitutional principles.

The interior minister said these regulations will see that the intelligence activities carried out by all institutions, without exception, are effective, abide by the law, and safeguard the privacy of all individuals.

[Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 21 March reports that General Horacio Toro's resignation is the first resignation of a high-ranking member of the Aylwin administration.]

No Reorganization Planned

PY2103191092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, said today that the Investigative Police will not be reorganized as a result of the report made by two

Independent Democratic Union deputies on the existence of a political police unit in charge of acts of espionage, or because of the resignation of Investigative Police Director Horacio Toro.

Correa said that General Toro's attitude is a credit to him and puts an end to a long and brilliant professional career. Correa added that Toro's resignation dignifies the entire police institution because he assumed the responsibility before the country for a serious mistake, contrary to what happened in the years prior to this government. [passage omitted]

Minister Terms Espionage in Democracy 'Negative'

PY2203021492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Education Minister Ricardo Lagos said the existence of acts of political espionage in a democratic system is negative. These were his words when asked about the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] report on political spying.

[Begin recording] [Lagos] Acts of espionage are negative. Things like that happened very frequently in the past. Many of us suffered as a result of acts of political espionage. Those were other times, however. Something like this must not occur in a democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Lagos] That only indicates the concept of responsibility prevailing in vertically organized institutions, which perhaps should be a more common practice in the country. [end recording]

Regarding the UDI report, Lagos said that it is an example of the role of supervision that the opposition must fulfill. It is one of the advantages of a democratic system, Lagos stressed.

Embassy in Bonn Target of Bomb Threat

PY2103125092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report from Bonn by Gonzalo Caceres]

[Excerpt] Chilean Ambassador to Germany Carlos Huneeus downplayed a bomb threat today when an unidentified caller threatened to blow up the building that houses the Chilean Embassy in Bonn.

Nevertheless, German police ordered the immediate evacuation of the building and cordoned off Kronprinzen Street in the Bonn-Bad Godesberg diplomatic section where the embassy is located.

After inspecting the building, police issued an all-clear signal and the embassy resumed normal operations.

Radio Cooperativa is able to report that this is not the first time that the Chilean Embassy in Bonn has been the target of a bomb threat since Erich Honecker has been a guest of the Chilean Embassy in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Says German Relations Not Hurt

PY2103143892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The German Government does not have any desire to freeze credits to Chile, as requested by some German legislators who are pressing German Chancellor Helmut Kohl over the Honecker case.

Economy Minister Carlos Ominami met German authorities and entrepreneurs during a seminar on foreign investments to encourage them to invest in the country.

[Begin Ominami recording] It was understood that our economic relations did not have to change because of the Honecker affair. The episode is marginal and inconsequential in our cooperation and the strengthening of relations between Chile and Germany. [end recording]

Ominami later traveled to Brussels to meet EC representatives to analyze three main topics: Chile's concern about the development of GATT negotiations, considering that our economy is open to the world and Chile is interested in increasing multilateral trade; intensifying relations with the EEC and beginning negotiations toward an eventual free trade agreement; and creating a mechanism to resolve problems affecting diverse export products. Carlos Ominami then traveled to Uruguay to join President Patricio Aylwin's entourage during his short official visit to this country.

Colombia

Former Minister Held by Rebels Found Dead

PA2103184792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] We regret to begin this newscast with a most unfortunate last minute report. The body of kidnap victim Argelino Duran Quintero, a former minister, was found today in a Norte de Santander Department area. He died of a heart attack while in the hands of his captors. His advanced age and precarious health made it impossible for him to survive the cruelty of being kidnapped.

Diego Ruiz, Popular Liberation Army [EPL] spokesman in the peace talks, had been commissioned in Mexico on the morning of 21 March to try to obtain Mr. Duran's release. The former minister died at least a week ago. May he rest in peace.

Death Interrupts Peace Talks

PA2203041592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero resulted in a sudden indefinite recess in the peace negotiations between the government and the guerrillas

being held in Mexico. The future of the dialogue now depends on what President Cesar Gaviria decides when he meets with his peace advisers on 22 March.

Once the news related to the death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero was made public, the negotiations in Mexico came to a halt. Government negotiators, as well as the guerrillas, immediately left the negotiating table. Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe and Vice Minister Hector Rivero Serrato began to pack their bags to return to Santa Fe de Bogota.

The dialogue was declared in recess while awaiting President Cesar Gaviria's decision. Peace Adviser Serpa indicated that the government is very concerned because what has taken place will have profound implications in Colombia.

Duran Quintero died while being held by the Popular Liberation Army guerrillas, who held him captive for approximately 50 days. That is the reason the guerrilla representatives participating in the negotiations in Mexico also reacted cautiously to the death announcement.

[Begin National Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board member Alfonso Cano recording, in progress-]...with the same shock and surprise as everyone else. We are equally affected by the death of Mr. Quintero because we are all aware of the implications it could have on the negotiations. [end recording]

The dialogue entered a period of indefinite recess and everything now depends on President Gaviria who, once he has met with his advisers, will decide whether the negotiations should continue.

Presidency Issues Communique

PA2203042692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] In a last-minute communique from the Presidency of the Republic, the national government stressed that if it is confirmed, without any doubt, that Dr. Argelino Duran Quintero's death occurred several days ago, it would represent the most serious example of dishonesty perpetrated by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

It is possible that they tried to hide the fact and even tried to promote a regional dialogue in Norte de Santander supposedly aimed at seeking a release, which they knew was already impossible.

The communique ends by stating it is necessary to reflect deeply on the guerrillas' sincerity during the negotiation process. Argelino Duran Quintero—an example for all Colombians.

Death Brings 'Angry Reactions'

PA2203125992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero has elicited angry reactions. Various Colombian entities have condemned it; however, some favor continued talks.

[Former President Misael Pastrana Borero] "This news has touched the closest to what I can describe as my spirit for friendship and affection."

This regrettable news has caused the entire country to react. Several of the people who knew Former Minister Duran Quintero described him as a good man who was loyal to his principles. Notwithstanding the fact that the guerrillas caused his death, former President Pastrana spoke in favor of continuing the talks in Mexico.

[Pastrana] "I ask the government and ask the guerrillas, who know that I have worked with a permanent commitment for peace, to make a goodwill gesture to see if they can give the country peace."

The attorney general condemned the crime and said that he will not attend the negotiations underway in Mexico between the guerrillas and the government.

[Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta] "There is no justification whatsoever for an institution such as the Attorney General's Office to be represented unless conditions are immediately modified and the country receives clear proof of goodwill that allows us to see that the dialogue process is indeed moving ahead."

The church also reacted with anger:

[Monsignor Pedro Rubiano] "One cannot understand how there can be talk of peace and seeking roads to peace when the lives of people are put on the line, not only of people like Dr. Duran Quintero, but of so many Colombians."

The Noticero TV Hoy newscast joins Colombian society in the grief they are suffering, especially the people of Norte de Santander Department, the relatives of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero, and the Social Conservative Party, for the tragic outcome of his despicable kidnapping.

Rebels Urged To Stop Kidnappings

PA2203190192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1554 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Trinidad, Mexico, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Government has strongly called on the guerrillas to stop kidnappings. In addition, the government has urged armed rebel organizations to release any persons detained against their will.

In a communique released on 22 March at a beach resort in La Trinidad, Tlaxcala, the Colombian Government condemned the death of Former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero, who had been kidnapped by the People's Liberation Army [EPL], a member group of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB], in December.

In Santa Fe de Bogota, the authorities reported on 21 March that Duran, who was a minister during the administration of Misael Pastrana, died as a result of a heart ailment while being held by the EPL.

According to the government, it is essential immediately to start a mechanism whereby the Attorney General's Office can have all kidnapped persons released and to clarify all cases where the EPL's participation is in doubt.

The communique, which states that "Duran lost his life in the hands of the terrorists," expresses doubt about the CNGSB's willingness to negotiate in the round of talks that resumed in Mexico early this month, after the round of talks held in Venezuela was interrupted.

The Colombian Government "invites the Colombian people to unite, in closest and deepest solidarity, in a shout of repudiation and indignation that reaches the criminals' ears, to state clearly that in Colombia there is no room for violence."

"The government will spare no effort in doing its constitutional duty of protecting the people. The government intends to reinforce even further the police and the Army, as well as the intelligence organizations, to combat kidnappings."

"The kidnapping and death of Duran Quintero underlines the criminal stand of the so-called CNGSB and constitutes an aberrant sample of a human rights violation that cannot be justified politically in any way whatsoever."

"If it is confirmed that Duran's death took place several days ago, it would be the most serious deception by the CNGSB, which has attempted to conceal the truth and even tried to encourage a regional dialogue in Norte de Santander for a release that was already impossible," the document stated.

The government delegation, headed by peace adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe, flew to Colombia last night for consultations and to receive instructions on the new course that the talks could take.

Prior to departing for Colombia, Serpa Uribe said that the delegation will meet with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria on 22 March to report to him on the status of the talks before the two sides agreed to suspend them for an indefinite period.

In addition, the CNGSB will make known its stand with regard to the former minister's death and the talks.

On 20 March, the government and guerrilla delegations agreed on a 24-hour recess after the governmental delegation expressed serious doubt about Duran's physical condition.

The deadline, however, expired on the morning of 21 March. Hours later, the sides confirmed Duran's death. As a result, the negotiating process has been suspended for an indefinite period.

During the talks held in La Trinidad, 160 km from Mexico City, the two sides had made progress on the discussion of four points that deal with Colombia's economic, political, and social situation. The talks are intended to facilitate a cease-fire, the cornerstone of peace in Colombia.

EPL Claims Responsibility

PA2203192792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1656 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] La Trinidad, Mexico, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) has no responsibility in the murder of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero and therefore the dialogue should continue, a rebel representative said on 22 March.

The Popular Liberation Army [EPL], a member group of the CNGSB, claimed responsibility on 22 March for the death of Duran Quintero and promised to give a clear and definite explanation of what happened.

Commander Diego Ruiz, EPL representative to the negotiations, pointed out that the dialogue "cannot be interfered with by the daily tragedies of the country, and it is necessary to conclude the recess and continue with the agenda without using the pretext of the death of the former minister to change the agreements."

In a communique released today, the CNGSB pointed out that it will not under any circumstances accept conditions for continuing the dialogue. "The country is hoping for political solutions and it will reject any blackmail imposed on the negotiations."

It was confirmed yesterday that Duran Quintero died of a cardiac infection [as received] while being held by the EPL, and this has led to an indefinite suspension of the talks. The government delegation to the talks returned to Colombia last night.

In Santa Fe de Bogota, President Cesar Gaviria's government issued a communique strongly condemning the death of the former minister, and voicing doubt as to the CGSDB's resolve to negotiate in the peace talks that had been taking place here since early March.

The parties agreed last 14 March to begin a four-point analysis of the country's situation: "Economic opening and social effects"; "state, democracy, new constitution, and political system"; "administrative corruption"; and "human rights, paramilitary groups, aspects of the confrontation that affect the people (kidnappings, forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, among other things)." This is the last topic for discussion of an agenda that the delegations have agreed to emphasize as basic in generating the conditions for a cease-fire.

Before leaving for Colombia, Horacio Serpa Uribe, presidential adviser for peace, emphasized that he will meet today with the Colombian president to inform him about the status of the negotiations.

He stressed that the round of talks could take a different turn because it has been learned that Duran Quintero died while being held by the EPL, and this might represent changes in the agenda.

The CNGSB regretted the death of the former minister, and said that "violence and Colombia's economic and social crisis demand substantial political solutions."

The CNGSB said that "willingness to reach an agreement is the only alternative the country has for solving its problem."

Diego Ruiz reiterated that the CNGSB has no responsibility in the death of Duran Quintero, and that the EPL will have to explain the death of the former minister in the Misael Pastrana administration.

Ruiz added that for the time being, the guerrillas are waiting for the government to decide on resuming the dialogue and seeking a political solution to this process that means so much for the fate of the country.

The rebel commander admitted that Duran Quintero's death "was a political error by the EPL and that it is not part of our organization's line," and therefore the incident will be investigated thoroughly.

He stated that the CNGSB was not aware of Duran Quintero's death until the presidential peace adviser notified them on 21 March.

The Colombian Government warned that if it is proven that the guerrillas knew that Duran Quintero had died over a week ago, the negotiating process might take a dramatic turn.

Press reports circulating in Santa Fe de Bogota indicate that it was learned on 21 March that the former minister died a week ago, after negotiations between the EPL and his family failed to obtain his release.

Advisers Arrive for Consultations

PA2203194692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The presidential peace advisers returned on the morning of 22 March to Colombia. President Gaviria will meet with them to instruct them on the future course of the peace talks that are being held in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

Members of the peace commission will be in consultations on 22 and 23 March with the president of the Republic to determine the future of the peace talks with the guerrillas.

[Begin recording of Deputy Government Minister Hector Riveros Serrato] The government insists that dialogue has been useful in other cases, and has repeatedly said that the success of dialogue depends on the atmosphere created around it. Difficulties such as what we have encountered obviously make the process very fragile. [end recording]

The delegates say that they will analyze the death of Argelino Duran Quintero to determine if the talks are resumed.

[Begin recording of presidential adviser Gilberto Echeverry] We have been summoned by the president of the Republic. Dr. Serpa Uribe has already left in another vehicle to meet the president. We are here to receive instructions from the president. We deeply regret the death of Dr. Duran Quintero, and we were shocked to learn of his death while we were in Mexico. We thought he was still alive, and therefore on 20 March we were exerting pressure. [end recording]

On the morning of 22 March, it was learned that President Gaviria might hold an informal meeting with peace adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe in Cartagena to discuss the future of the dialogue in Mexico.

Government Minister Comments

PA2303040592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] [Begin Government Minister Humberto De La Calle recording] Duran respected all Colombians throughout his whole life. He had no way of defending himself. His kidnapping was premeditated. How could his murder be a fortuitous action? That was not a fortuitous act of war, that was an atrocious crime. [end recording]

That was how the government reacted to the kidnapping and death of former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero. Government Minister Humberto De La Calle explained this action generates doubts about the rebels' sincerity to continue the peace negotiations in Mexico. He asked the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] to take a clear position regarding kidnappings and said the negotiations are fragile and uncertain.

[Begin De La Calle recording] The government has always insisted on the need to maintain the topic of the cease-fire and ending the hostilities as basic points. I believe these events prove they are indeed important points. [end recording]

He stated all the government's efforts are now concentrated on recovering Argelino Duran Quintero's body. He explained he is maintaining permanent contact with President Cesar Gaviria, who is in Cartagena. De La Calle also said the government will decide to continue the peace talks with the CNG in Mexico only after confirming the death of the former minister.

EPL Dissident Guerrillas Surrender

PA2103201792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] A total of 41 dissident guerrillas of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] turned themselves in to the presidential peace advisory authorities at 0100 on 21 March.

The EPL rebels secretly surrendered at an iron and steel factory in southern Santa Fe de Bogota where 30 weapons, including revolvers, rifles, and ammunition, were smelted.

Three delegates from the peace advisory office were present to witness their surrender. The guerrilla group that turned itself in operated in Antioquia, Risaralda, Valle, and Atlantico Departments.

[Begin recording of Peace Adviser Eduardo Diaz Rodriguez] This occasion, which we have all attended, is very important from a political point of view, because it shows that peace is making progress despite the positions adopted by violent people, who believe war is a solution to the problems of the country. [end recording]

These EPL dissidents are subscribing to last year's peace agreements, which led to the EPL's return to civilian life. The talks being held for the surrender of these 41 men began in January and the possibility that more EPL guerrillas will turn themselves in has not been ruled out.

Ecuador

Chilean Envoy on Reaction to Borja Statements

PA2003201192 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Bernardo Julio Contreras, Chile's ambassador to Ecuador, said relations between Chile and Ecuador should not be tarnished because of the statements President Rodrigo Borja Ceballos made about Former President General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte's private visit to Quito.

The diplomat noted that the Chilean Foreign Ministry and the Chilean Embassy had no part in setting the agenda or determining the reasons for the Chilean military leader's visit.

With regard to President Rodrigo Borja Ceballos' statements, in which he did not welcome Gen. Pinochet, the ambassador said:

[Begin recording] [Contreras] This is a sovereign act by the Ecuadoran Government, under the authority of President Borja, of course, as head of Ecuadoran foreign policy. He has stated his reasons for doing so, in light of which we evidently have no challenge to present, nor do we have any remote possibility of presenting a challenge. This is a discretionary and sovereign act within the scope of authority of a head of state to handle foreign policy matters, as it is the head of state who directs his country's foreign policy.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Ambassador, are you aware of any reaction by the Chilean Armed Forces to President Borja's statements?

[Contreras] How this problem is handled in Chile will evidently create... [pauses] I am not aware of the details but the Chilean press will publish them in Chile. Some publications make it very clear that Mr. Pinochet is on a personal and private trip, although it may sound a little repetitive. In that light, he could not rationally suggest, request, or demand any official protests. He has not done so. He simply stated that he was on a personal trip, and sometimes unexpected situations do crop up before personal trips.

There have been no actual statements in Chile regarding this event. I will receive the specific details to be handled with regard to the Chilean position from our Foreign Ministry, if and when it does make a statement. In response to your question, the Chilean Foreign Ministry or President Aylwin, as the case may be, could issue a statement in the event they feel it is necessary.

[Reporter] But there have been demonstrations at the embassy and rallies rejecting the presence of Gen. Pinochet.

[Contreras] The demonstrations are a consequence of two very firm realities: In Chile and Ecuador happily we have a democratic system of government. In a democracy we can express our different opinions, which we do in different ways. Demonstrating a feeling of rejection, for example, is a measure used by certain sectors. Those who express such feelings are personally responsible for their actions. [end recording]

Pinochet Departs for Brazil

PA2103040692 Paris AFP in Spanish 1844 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Guayaquil, 20 Mar (AFP)—General Augusto Pinochet, former president of Chile, flew to Brazil on 20 March at the end of an unexpected and controversial private visit of nearly 41 hours. This visit was criticized by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and created diplomatic tension.

Bernardo Julio, Chilean ambassador to Ecuador, confirmed that Pinochet boarded a small Brazilian jet plane and departed Ecuador at 1044 surrounded by strict security measures and avoiding journalists. Local aeronautic authorities, however, did not verify his departure.

The ex-dictator landed in Quito unexpectedly on 18 March. Upon arriving, he was informed that President Borja had stated that "his presence is not welcome," a remark that unleashed a series of reports, commentaries, and diplomatic conferences.

The foreign ministers of the two countries held a conference over the telephone and the ambassadors of Ecuador and Chile were called to the offices of their respective foreign ministers after the Chilean Government publicly expressed concern over Borja's remark.

The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry reported the incident has been settled with Pinochet's departure. Chilean Ambassador Julio stated: "This situation does not at all alter the friendly relations between the Ecuadoran Government and people and the Chilean Government and people."

Pinochet was applauded and greeted warmly by his friends in Ecuador, most of them retired soldiers and their families. Meanwhile, Chileans residing in Quito expressed their rejection of him with street demonstrations in front of the Chilean Embassy and the hotel where he stayed.

Admiral Hugo Unda, chief of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces Joint Staff, said: "There was not and there will not be any official contact between our Armed Forces and Gen. Pinochet." He added he had not been informed of the visit and Pinochet had not been invited.

The local media recalled that the commanders of the Ecuadoran Army and Navy are attending a Latin American meeting in Chile.

Pinochet did not receive the military honors due his high military rank at his arrival or departure because his visit, as he himself said, was of a private nature. Also, he did not ask to be received by any military authorities.

Pinochet, who worked in Quito as military attache and as a professor at the Army Military Academy, lauded the Ecuadoran people and apparently was not concerned over Borja's remark.

Several Ecuadoran personalities familiar with diplomacy and international law criticized Borja and said he acted "recklessly and foolishly."

Peru

* Alan Garcia on Economic Policy, Candidacy

92SM0300A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 2 Mar 92 pp 26-31

[Interview with Alan Garcia, former president of Peru (1985-1990) and current American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) general secretary, by Alberto Bonilla and Raul Vargas; place and date not given]

[Text] [CARETAS] You have spared no effort in defending your administration and attacking the present regime. With the perspective of time, what was the bad side—the really bad aspect—of your government?

[Garcia] Your question allows me to respond to the black legend that has been cast over my government according to which we Aprists are very incompetent and corrupt. We made mistakes, just as previous administrations did. I will mention them briefly: first, there was a lot of voluntarism, what you would expect from a movement that for 60 years aspired to power without ever achieving it, and when it did, had very young and inexpert leaders. Second, we did not have certain basic policies: tax collection, for example, broadening of the tax base. Third, we were not attuned to the economic changes that were already under way and that demanded a greater play of market forces without abandoning the needs of the state and of the least able citizens. Fourth, we had no policy of debureaucratization and reduction of state companies. Fifth, we had a concept of public welfare that the lowest costs were those that most helped people, without realizing that those who benefit by the cheapest services do not appreciate or defend them. Sixth, we were permissive with a certain kind of economic immorality and incompetence in public affairs.

[CARETAS] You forget, above all, about the bank nationalization?

[Garcia] I do not believe that was a mistake, as far as the intention. Perhaps it was badly explained, badly managed. Look, there is a big problem now about the Raffo Group, overindebted speculatively for more than $100 million that it borrowed from a number of banks not to produce but to speculate, and which the relation of the price of the dollar to national interest rates led to a major disaster. That group is headed by the person who was in charge of Peru's most important bank. When we planned the bank nationalization, we were worried because the enormous resources from the reactivation, produced during the first two years of government, had not gone into the productive sector as we had supposed they would, and in the second place, because there was a hyperconcentration and manipulation by certain groups. A few days ago Senator Sandro Mariategui said that the BCR [Central Reserve Bank] should set the exchange and interest rates because in Peru there is no free market but rather eight bankers who get together and fix these prices which are basic for the whole economy, salaries, and employment. So that the aim of controlling this preponderant and glacial sector was good. Perhaps the country did not like the nationalization concept. Fine, it must be corrected. We must keep up with the times. If people want a better distribution of property without hegemonies or monopolies, let us take that road and not insist on a theme that opinion and the times consider outmoded: the concept of the state as proprietor and best manager. That does not mean to fall into the free market without restriction or protection.

[CARETAS] These errors became a burdensome inheritance for the present administration and for Peruvians. Was not this attitude of "after me the deluge" unscrupulous and reprehensible?

[Garcia] I would say that my aggressive enemies, first among them the novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, in a style unknown in Peru for its insult and aggressiveness, proposed the following alternative: better the deluge than Alan. They contributed to the creation of a situation of confusion that no one would have been able to manage. When one talks about my government's legacy, one forgets that there were two phases. The first three years, including the nationalization, after which there was a breaking point. In those first three years there was growth, jobs, better wages. Afterward, very powerful economic forces unleashed more violently economic problems that might have been incubating during the first phase due to the lack of an adequate tax collection system and not reducing the number of state enterprises.

[CARETAS] Well, in those three years there was a great waste of money, foreign creditors not paid. There was a real spree, as they say....

[Garcia] You call waste not paying organisms such as the IMF that do not lend anything, or countries like the United States, which in San Antonio announced that there was no money, so that those funds could be used to benefit agriculture. That is the best guarantee against terrorism, internal migration....

[CARETAS] The fact is that during the second phase of your government the serious crisis occurred that brought on the harsh correction of 1991 that we are all suffering. Fujimori had to change his program....

[Garcia] Just a moment. I am the first to admit that in the last two years there was much confusion and uncertainty. But those who assisted in converting any economic correction into an outburst are also responsible. And do not tell me that President Fujimori had to change his plan as soon as he realized what the situation of the country was. Mr. Fujimori had no program, no idea, no aim except to defeat Vargas Llosa in any way he could.

[CARETAS] Your attacks on the government indicate that you are in a campaign. At the end of your government CARETAS said that "in five years you squandered your word and your credibility, and that in the future the people would be more sceptical when the time came to put you to the test". What makes you think that the time has come to rebuild your credibility?

[Garcia] We should limit certain implicit expressions such as that the harshness of the program being applied is a consequence of the previous one. I do not understand how a doctor can treat a disease by killing the patient or an economist solve a problem by making it worse. The problem is that they are applying a borrowed model, unfamiliar even to the one who governs. What we are experiencing today is the result of a model chosen at the last minute. Very well, when someone enters politics, or reenters it, as is my case, there are several objectives, the first being to put ones movement or political party face to face with reality. Their deeds or acts are what will win credibility for that group.

[CARETAS] In 1985 you reached the Presidency by adding to the traditional Aprist vote the independent voters, who now distrust you. How do you plan to recapture the middle class groups?

[Garcia] I am not writing off support for APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] by the middle class, professionals, small- and medium- businessmen, merchants, who are an intelligent group and fundamental for Peru. They seem to me a group easy to charm and also easily disillusioned. At the moment they believe in the black legend of APRA statism and incompetence. Still, politics is not merely the evaluation of a person or a group but the comparison of available alternatives. The middle class now has many reasons to be more disillusioned about an extreme liberalism that could mean its destruction than about a government with a feeling for people, that has corrected its deficiencies and mistakes.

[CARETAS] What deeds will your party have to accomplish, for it to be believed?

[Garcia] First, prove that the years do not pass in vain and show that experience cannot be thrown into a trash can. The country will understand that APRA has much to offer. Without conceding to the black legend that everything the APRA government did was bad, all of the party's elements, beginning with its general secretary, will have to conduct a very self-critical examination of everything that happened.

[CARETAS] Regarding self-criticism, let us look at the last APRA congress in Trujillo. Is the way in which you were elected and Alva Castro was fired an indication of a less conflictive relationship between you and the party?

[Garcia] There have been no conflicts with my party. I have always had a very clear relationship with it. On that occasion, I made known that I considered my presence in the general secretariat inopportune. I took upon myself personally the burden of everything bad that happened during my administration. But when one is asked unanimously, by all of the provincial and district committees, to forget ones personal point of view and to take on the obligation that one has as a party militant, he cannot say that he is leaving because he wants to rest.

[CARETAS] The task of recreating your own image and that of the party leaps to the eye, but for many the images, the style, the message have the old flavor. You yourself have said that the ideas of 1985 are still valid. Have not these years passed in vain, with all the world changes?

[Garcia] Look, basically, and because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is one power without rival. [Garcia refers to the West, particularly the United States] What is unacceptable is that this new power should be infallible. In principle it provides no solution to the problems of our countries which it keeps in their sad condition of dependence which tends to worsen. So that the fanatical and extreme application of the free market without restriction or regulatory state is not a solution for us but worsens our situation. To say this is not a populist or statist position. It is simply the affirmation of a kind of realistic patriotism. President Fujimori a year ago signed the Antidrug Agreement with the United States, promising to abide by the unrestricted free market and with economic conditions that have nothing to do with the subject of drugs, with the promise that the dollars are coming. What happened in the end is that the dollars are not coming. To toy with these illusions with a country menaced by violence seems to me absurd and condemnable. It is not bad to negotiate if the government has chosen that path, but I believe that it has negotiated very poorly.

[CARETAS] You also negotiated poorly. You said you would not pay, and the result was the exclusion of Peru

from the international financial community for a long time. And you can bet they are going to get their money from us.

[Garcia] The countries that did not exclude themselves from the international community paid four times more than they received in credits. If that is what you call a benefit of not being isolated you can keep the benefit and, oh yes, may I never govern Peru.

[CARETAS] Let us suppose that we continued your policy. Today we would be in the same orphanage as Cuba. What country in the world refuses to negotiate with the IMF?

[Garcia] I do not say that the road of the APRA government's last two years has to be followed exactly. The poverty, unemployment and deficit of the last two years did not result from not paying the IMF but from conflict with internal power groups. But the policy of keeping the money in Peru that we needed for development could have been continued without the rhetoric against international financial capitalism, which is what most annoyed them about my style. Last year we paid one billion and they loaned us 350 million. The other 650 million came out of our poor pockets. One must negotiate in order to pay less relative to what the new credits will bring, what should be done is to collect more taxes, better utilize the funds from the reactivation, and not fight with the powerful sectors that I am sure are reflecting on seeing their factories closing, not only those in exports, sacrificed for the cheap dollar that the government is maintaining in order to pay the debt....

[CARETAS] The visit of Michel Camdessus showed that it was useless to satanize him. That, all in all, it was better to negotiate, dialogue. You had no opportuniity to speak with him....

[Garcia] I was not invited to the meeting at the hotel, but I would not have gone anyway. It would have been impolite to rain on his party.

[CARETAS] But do you have a better opinion of this IMF chief?

[Garcia] Mr. Camdessus is an astute man. He seems more like a Latin American, a lively politician, shrewd, who knows how to speak well. But he came to tell Peru not to expect anything and to raise more taxes in order to fulfill its obligations. So that, I personally would talk to Mr. Camdessus, but without paying.

[CARETAS] He recommended what you did not do: a fiscal revolution....

[Garcia] I agree, that is fine. But President Fujimori raised that last year, before Camdessus. I prefer to give the credit to our president, and not to the president of presidents, which is what the head of the IMF seems to be. And as for the subject of the debt, today's AGP [Alan Garcia Perez] would recommend to the AGP of 1985-86 (if this temporal inversion were possible): reduce your payments but do not make a fuss. The spotlight is on you and you will stir up animosity. Do what is in your mind but do not say so. In sum, we do not want a fight with everyone but neither should we have the illusions of a 15-year old that the system will provide everything; we must realize that in today's world each one seeks his own advantage, that there are too many competitors and that a lot of inner strength as well as peace and tranquility are needed.

[CARETAS] Well, another reality that has changed is that at a certain point a start has to be made in paying the debt and that there will not always be a positive flow in the exchange, but there will be reentry into the financial world....

[Garcia] I have never believed in the thesis of "I do not pay because the debt is unjust". That was the beginning of my dispute with Fidel Castro. With good or bad governments we have to recognize that we have become indebted and that we have to pay. The problem is over what period we pay, reducing the payment to our real possibilities. I believe, as the conference in San Antonio demonstrated, that the rich of the world have their own problems. The absurd thing is to propose oneself as family servant to the rich, expecting that they will resolve our problems.

[CARETAS] You are unceasing in your attacks against the government. Is there anything that seems to you to be acceptable, praiseworthy, plausible?

[Garcia] I did not address that because I was not asked. There are accomplishments on some international points. Of course, on the subject of Cartagena, the Fujimori doctrine was outlined in February 1990 by Alan Garcia in CARETAS and it was called "An anti-imperialist approach to the subject of drugs".

[CARETAS] The inspirational source, Hernando de Soto, was common to both.

[Garcia] No. Mr. de Soto knew absolutely nothing on the subject of drugs during my government. It was after 28 July 1990, that he became an expert. But to return to the current administration's foreign policy, I believe that the initiative regarding Ecuador has merit because by means of a step that the international community values, we recognize that there is a problem and we are disposed to solve it. The relationship with Bolivia is also positive. It fulfilled exactly what was agreed in October 1989 with President Jaime Paz on Lake Titicaca. On these matters we should support the present government, as well as its efforts to have the counry included in the Pacific Basin—without much success, by the way.

[CARETAS] Let us return to the party. You announce an implacable campaign of moralization. You ask the new secretary for discipline, Jorge Idiaquez, to punish the immoral, and immediately memory brings to mind his friendship, for example, with Carlos Langberg, and that many big fish of your administration did not receive exemplary punishment.

[Garcia] Evidently in the APRA government there were immoral persons and the bribery of the BCCI [Bank of

Commerce and Credit International] is a flagrant fact, as could be 20 more. How to fight against it? In the first place, more sharing of power, which means that the president should not have an absolute majority in Congress, all the lines of control should not be concentrated.

[CARETAS] That then would favor President Fujimori. Immorality should have declined consistently in this period....

[Garcia] Not necessarily. In reality, he has Congress on his side. What important censure, what important scandal has happened so far? I think, for example, that the Belco affair implies a very poor negotiation.

[CARETAS] But there was no deceit....

[Garcia] Why do you say no? When a very bad negotiation takes place, the citizen has the right to ask himself what interests there could be for payment to be greater or faster than anticipated. If it had been an APRA negotiation, the ministers of energy and economy would already be hanging. Not now. Congress does not investigate. A few days ago, when the budgetary credit law was being manipulated, the award without bids for foreign commerce supervision was guaranteed to foreign firms. Did anyone raise a scandal over that? Everything having to do with immorality came to an end with the APRA government.

[CARETAS] In Gran Chimu they chanted "Alan yes, his friends no". Does that not imply the need for an important corrective on the subject of moralization?

[Garcia] If that chorus had been chanted in the Congress I would have left. I will never allow a lack of respect to the general secretary of the party. If what is involved is a group—that I did not hear—magnified by certain daily newspapers, this shows the natural distrust that behind the winner a few opportunists are gathering who want only to be close to power. This suspicion could also arise regarding the relatives who surround the present chief executive or with regard to the fondness for public office that many citizens of oriental extraction seem to possess. As for immorality within the party, I will not marry anyone. If something is proven against my brother, who never took part in the government, let them throw him out. I defend no one if commission of a crime is proved.

[CARETAS] You insist you will not be a candidate in 1995 but few believe you. I remember a reply of yours: if I am elected in the year 2000 I will be the only case of a president who governed in two millennia. Perhaps because you are always a candidate....

[Garcia] The truth is that the Presidency, which is a golden cage, is not desirable from a personal point of view. Especially when one has already been there. There is a basic question: it is that all of us politicians suffer from presidentialism. In my case it is a condemnation: because everything I do has to be connected to the Presidency. I am condemned to be a candidate. But in that regard, I can tell you that he who ties himself too much to his political future begins to lie too much, which is a very serious problem.

[CARETAS] This did not happen with you?

[Garcia] Not lying, to guild the pill too much, to protect oneself too much, to open as few new fronts as possible. That is the obligation of a candidate and if he sets his goal the next four or ten years, he will be desperate, hysterical. I am already too old, no longer 32 years old as in 1982, to live dependent on what people will say. I have already lived that choreography and it does not amuse me. It is not the best opportunity for AGP to be the candidate in 1995. I am aware that the people do not trust me and I recognize that democratic right.

[CARETAS] All of a sudden, then, the APRA candidate in 1995 could be ex-General Secretary Luis Alva Castro.

[Garcia] I believe it would be a good opportunity to show that he really is a good candidate. I believe that he is a good administrator of government. Alva Castro had a very difficult challenge, departure from the government, and he performed it well. He might accomplish more easily than Alan Garcia the reconciliation between the people and the APRA. But let us not talk only about one candidate. The APRA has several persons who the electorate could find attractive.

Uruguay

German Terrorist 'Linked' to Embassy Attack

PY2003183292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Article by Jorge Figueroa]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 20 Mar (EFE)—German terrorist Andrea Martina Klump, an explosives expert in the Red Army's Armed Faction, entered Uruguay a few days before the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and her presence in the area could have been linked to the attack.

Klump is wanted in several countries, Spain included, for her involvement in various attacks.

Uruguayan Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez said today that the German terrorist presumably entered Uruguay using false documents, but her presence was detected by intelligence services.

Somewhere in Uruguay, Klump met with her sister, whose name was not disclosed, who came straight from Germany.

Later, the two women disappeared and it is believed that they could have entered Argentina a few days before the attack through the international bridge linking the Uruguayan city of Fray Bentos—300 km northwest of Montevideo—with the Argentine city of Puerto Unzua.

Uruguayan police spokesmen said that, because the 32-year-old German terrorist is an expert in explosives, it is believed that her trip to Argentina could have been designed to give logistical support to the Islamic Jihad group, which claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli Embassy. [passage omitted]

Sister Denies Involvement

PY2103172092 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Annette Klump, sister of Andrea Klump—a German terrorist who is an explosives expert—has denied their involvement in the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina.

Annette Klump introduced herself to a Uruguayan newspaper and denied having gone with her sister to Buenos Aires to prepare the bomb that destroyed the embassy.

The Argentine Interior Ministry today discounted the women's involvement in the attack.

Venezuela

'Continued Wave of Protests' Reported 21 Mar

PA2203023892 Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Merida, Venezuela, 21 Mar (AFP)—The local INNAC [Informaciones Nacionales Press Service] has reported a continued wave of protests and disturbances on 21 March, after hooded individuals and students used a molotov cocktail to set on fire a truck belonging to the recently privatized National Telephone Company of Venezuela.

The truck was set on fire near the student dormitory in Merida, an Andean city 600 km southeast of Caracas, where the Andes University is located. Clashes occurred between the troublemakers and riot police, who used tear gas. INNAC reported that there were attempts to loot stores on 20 March, but the owners confronted the troublemakers.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on 21 March called them "terrorists and antipatriotic." On 20 March, these disturbances spread to San Cristobal near Cucuta in Colombia and Trujillo and Bocono. On 20 March in the oil city of Maracaibo in northwestern Venezuela, troublemakers set fire to a truck carrying food.

"I do not know what patriotism or sense of protest some terrorists have who burn a truck or burn a bus that the people use for transportation. This is incomprehensible," Perez said while inaugurating a potable waterworks system in Tinaquillo, about 70 km west of Caracas.

A public bus was also set on fire in San Cristobal on 20 March, which paralyzed bus service for five hours, blocking several streets.

When referring to these incidents, the president said the protests were not against the government "but against terrorists who burn property that serve the people."

Regarding a protest march summoned on 19 March in Caracas by students, journalist unions, and neighborhood organizations, which was violently repressed by police, Perez justified this by stressing that "public forces acted the way they did to maintain order." Perez said this march "was not successful" and "there were not more than 100 people gathered." Three journalists covering the incidents were injured during that incident, in addition to about 20 other people.

Pinerua Expects Reinstated Constitutional Rights

PA2103025392 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] On 20 March, Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz reported constitutional guarantees could be fully reinstated in the next few days.

[Begin Pinerua recording] The suspension of guarantees had no other purpose than to allow everything to calm down, and we are slowly achieving this. We cannot deny that the 4 February insurrection or uprising caused confusion, caused many people to become angry and intolerant, and—why not admit it—served to spur many grievances. This stage is being overcome, and I trust that soon, sooner than believed, we shall be able to reestablish full constitutional guarantees. [end recording]

Constitutional Reform Debate To Begin 6 Apr

PA2003140092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] Chamber of Deputies President Luis Enrique Oberto reported that parliamentary debates on constitutional reform by the commission headed by Senator Rafael Caldera will begin on 6 April. Oberto stressed that the constitutional modifications include important content changes and necessary and substantial reforms to improve democracy. He stressed that the creation of the post of prime minister is among the important changes. In Venezuela, the prime minister will take over certain of the president's tasks.

[Begin Oberto recording] The president will deal with all matters that pertain to a head of state—the same obligations someone in France, the UK... [corrects himself], Italy, or Spain has who is not head of government. The head of government, the prime minister, will be responsible for leading and coordinating the government. He will be the person responsible for heading the Council of Ministers and will, of course, propose nominees to the council. [end recording]

Another topic being discussed at the constitutional reform commission is the post of human rights defender: a real-life Robin Hood with certain prerogatives to help citizens.

[Begin Oberto recording] Regarding the people's defender or human rights defender—the name this important official will have is still under discussion—he will be responsible for handling all cases in which citizens feel their rights are being trampled on by normal administrative channels or by other citizens, associations, or organizations, public or private. [end recording]

The other post unknown in Venezuela but often used in other countries is that of justice of the peace. He would be tasked with rapidly solving problems regarding services, neighborhood quarrels, and citizens' legal consultations.

[Begin Oberto recording] The post of justice of the peace would be part of a lower appeals system that would in turn be part of the judicial branch. The justice of the peace would also rapidly solve certain problems that arise between citizens that do not merit going through the usual court system and that can be expeditiously solved by the justice of peace system. [end recording]

Reforms such as reorganizing the judicial branch, strengthening women's rights and the rights of naturalized citizens, and making use of the referendum will be important topics in the new constitution.

The advantage of the referendum is that Venezuelans would be able to participate more in the country's important decisions—for example to request that a law be eliminated or repealed, that a certain decree be abolished, or simply to request things that are important to Venezuelans.

Prime Minister Post Approved

PA2203015092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] The Constitutional Amendment Commission on 22 March approved articles related to the posts of prime minister and human rights ombudsman, as well as articles regarding a referendum. In its latest discussion of the amendments, the commission, headed by former President Rafael Caldera, approved Article 37 concerning the position of a prime minister to be appointed by the president of the Republic, who would also be empowered to dismiss the prime minister.

The functions of the prime minister would include ratifying the appointment and removal of ministers and governors, presiding over cabinet and council meetings, and exercising the powers of the president when the latter is away from the country. This minister could be removed from his post by a vote of censure from three-fifths of the joint Congress.

The commission also approved the post of human rights ombudsman, whose function will be to ensure respect for human rights. He will have the authority to summon public officials and employees, as well as private citizens, to obtain information on important issues. He will also be an advocate for consumers, the environment, and for nature, and will be authorized to ask the attorney general of the Republic to apply criminal, civil, administrative, or disciplinary sanctions against public employees.

Not all discussions within the commission ended in agreement, however. No agreement was reached on 21 March on articles concerning the creation of the High Commission of Justice.

[Begin Caldera recording] I maintain that there should be a special organization, not linked to political parties, which represents the nation and has the authority to screen candidates who are nominated for the Supreme Court of Justice or for positions of high-ranking magistrates, and has the power to dismiss or remove any judicial official, no matter how high-ranking, when it deems there is reason to do so. [end recording]

Pedro Paris Montesinos, president of the Congress and vice president of the Constitutional Amendment Commission—responding to comments by Ramon J. Velasquez [honorary member of the Presidential Advisory Council] regarding the commission's work—said that the commission is working with a great sense of responsibility and seriousness.

[Begin Paris recording] I believe everything that has been proposed in the commission fully meets the demands that have been made regarding the revitalization of the justice system to make it more serious, credible, respectable, and trustworthy, and also to give greater participation to the people to make major political decisions. [end recording]

The bicameral Constitutional Amendments Commission will have to continue its meetings on 22 March because there are differences on very important issues. It must, however, present a document to the Congress for discussion by 26 March.

* AD Union Leader Explains Perez's Unpopularity

92SM0299A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Feb 92 (Section D) p 2

[Report on statements attributed to Democratic Action leader Cesar Gil by Rafael Nunez; place and date not given; first paragraph is EL NACIONAL introduction]

[Text] The labor union wing of AD [Democratic Action] has warned the president on the issue of fringe benefits, saying that these have been arrogantly rejected by the Cabinet's technocrats.

Cesar Gil, the AD's labor leader, stated that the arrogant attitude of the technocrats inside Carlos Andres Perez's cabinet has had a lot to do with the head of state's unpopularity.

He indicated that the AD's labor union bureau does not doubt that Perez is a great leader. But the persons around him who are responsible for the instituting of policies—says Gil—forget that these are democratic governments

elected by the people, and "do not give a hoot for the impact these policies may be having on Venezuelans."

He pointed out that at the start of development of the economic package, the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] had posited the need to institute a social benefits policy, in terms of public services and food, as part of the wage package, and had stressed that a total and absolute price decontrol policy is not feasible unless a basic statistical shopping basket of at least 20 products is established for the population as a whole, and unless other recommendations are implemented, none of which has been done thus far. On the contrary, he said, the response of the government officials has consistently been opposed to any proposed social benefits policy whatever.

[Question] "Is this the position of AD's labor wing?"

[Gil] "No, that is the country's position, everyone's position, that of journalists, union members, military personnel.

"This government by technocrats is finished, and it is necessary now to bring people into the government who are compassionate and who have a great deal of credibility, so as to strengthen the national government in the opinion of the population."

Those were the words of Cesar Gil, the AD labor leader, who pointed out the existence at the national level, both inside and outside the well-known parties, of economists of different doctrines, who have more influence within the Venezuelan society, who are held in higher esteem and carry more weight with the people, than the regular heads of Education, Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning], and Development, and than the Central Bank's president, all of whom, in his judgement, should leave the government, because they are no longer of service to the country, and do not respond to its current needs.

The union leader believes that the 4 February riot needs to be analyzed in depth and its causes and consequences discussed at length by and within the party, and that what is called for is that the national government rectify its policy in some of its detailed aspects, so as to reduce the damaging impact of its economic policy on the sector of the population whose resources are very limited.

He also believes that the government must fulfill the citizens' right of access to public services, food, and education, these being fundamental. In this regard, he called for the government to institute an emergency plan that includes the construction of public housing.

He said that his party's labor leadership is perplexed by the arrogant attitude being displayed by government officials like Imelda Cisnero, Miguel Rodriguez, and even Pedro Timoco, whose positions—he added—when they say that "the economic package will remain the same as planned from the outset, that this is not the cause of the attempted coup, that the country's situation is excellent, and that we are growing economically"—are exacerbating the situation in which the population is living.

Therefore—he said—at this point, he is calling for not only a change of policy, but also a change of officials, since the government needs more strength, more credibility, to be able to deal with all the problems that are currently arising in the country and with the hunger and demands of the population.

* Prosecutor Describes Corruption Case Delays

92SM0299B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 23 Feb 92 p 5

[Article by Carolina Paez; first paragraph is EL DIARIO DE CARACAS introduction]

[Text] Ramon Escovar Salom, public prosecutor for the Republic, points out that many corruption cases are likely to prescribe by virtue of expiry of the time limit set by law for rendering judgment. The long list of pending cases on the docket of the Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] includes those of the Margold company, the Venezuelan Corporation for Development [CVF], and the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana [CVG].

Ramon Escovar Salom, public prosecutor for the Republic, said yesterday that the negative effects the delays in the administration of justice are producing on the functioning of the state as a state governed by law, and on the march of progress of Venezuelan society, require the instituting of immediate actions, such as a reform of the Organic Law of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Yesterday at noon, the public prosecutor met with reporters and delivered an extensive list of alleged corruption cases (a total of 106), that lie buried in the CSJ's docket, especially in the Appellate Court, awaiting decision. "This procedural delay," he said, "could bring about the invalidation of many of the cases by prescription, owing to expiry of the time limit established by law for rendering judgement."

In this regard, he cited an unusual case reflecting the lack of procedural expeditiousness—that of a suit brought against a citizen for homicide. The Criminal Appeals Branch of the Appellate Court delayed 25 years in rendering its judgment upholding the verdict. The proceedings began in 1958, and not until two years ago was the final decision made known.

Crimes under the Organic Law on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances have been awaiting Court decision since 1987. Proceedings on appeals instituted in 1986, in cases of homicide and other crimes, are still awaiting decision. This dilatoriness in respect to review proceedings can result in losses to the country of as much as one billion bolivares, according to the public prosecutor.

The long list of unfinished business awaiting decision includes the pending review of the case of the irregularities that took place in the Federal District Administration in 1982 on the occasion of the recovery of the Helicoide, in which the Supreme Court rendered its judgment in October 1987. It also includes the appeal

filed by the Office of the Public Prosecutor relating to alleged irregularities in the Bolivar State Administration.

Also awaiting resolution in the CSJ Appellate Court's Criminal Branch are the proceedings related to the irregularities that allegedly occurred in the CVF and basic enterprises of the CVG, as well as other cases of alleged irregularities in various state administrations, ministries, autonomous institutions (IAN [National Agrarian Institute], and INCE [National Institute of Cooperative Education], among others), and public-sector enterprises.

The public prosecutor stated that considerable delays have been incurred by the CSJ Appellate Court's Criminal Branch as a result of jurisdictional conflicts that have arisen. "In the famous Margold case, he said, "notwithstanding notification that the jurisdictional conflict that arose has been resolved, and despite the request filed with the court for release of the proceedings in the case, for pursuit of appropriate action in connection with a dissenting opinion, the case continues stymied in the CSJ. Also in the hands of the Supreme Court, since March of last year, is the indictment brought by our office against Antonio Rios, in connection with the BTV (Venezuelan Workers Bank) case, for pretrial hearing on the merits. And the Court will have to resolve the case pertaining to the reinstating of former Minister of Justice Jesus Moreno Guacaran in the said court. We filed the respective motion to vacate as of last September."

'Political Will Is Lacking'

The situation as outlined led the prosecutor to state that in Venezuela, to date, the political will to counteract corruption has been lacking. In this regard, he stressed that the Court's schedule, under which hearings are held three times a week, is an extremely reduced one that has repercussions on the judicial timing and the expeditiousness of proceedings.

"In more than 30 years of democracy, the Supreme Court of Justice has brought a very sparse contribution to the country's jurisprudence and juristic culture, because it has also made little contribution, if any at all, as an agent of social change. It has concentrated on formal and formalistic decisions, approaching with dilatoriness and indifference the fundamental problems of justice and the real solution of conflicts and controversies.

"Nor has interest in stressing the division of powers been one of the Court's distinguishing characteristics. It has been greatly influenced by the interests of the executive arm, and it has therefore not contributed to the full-fledged development of the Constitution, which legitimates the division of powers as one of its aspirations and fundamental premises. It has therefore had little independence and has not distinguished itself for leadership but rather for laggardness in the institutional development of the nation."

"This is a criticism," the public prosecutor added, "that can be leveled from a qualitative standpoint, in that very frequently the Court decides not to decide and to postpone the matter at hand by way of artificial procedural expedients."

The foregoing exposition—the public prosecutor said—calls for a deep-rooted reform of the country's juridical system. "Especially needing to be addressed, within the Constitution, are the requirements for eligibility for Court judgeships, which should include a doctorate in law with extremely high university grades and a record of outstanding university achievement, and rigorous political independence. There should be a strict prohibition precluding anyone with militant ties to any political party from eligibility for a judgeship."

Lusinchi Case

Referring to the case of former President Jaime Lusinchi, the prosecutor stated that finally, on Friday, he had received the 86-piece docket. He photographed it for its voluminous size, he said, comparing it to the "tower of Babel." "My role in the case begins now, and I promise to carry it out with absolute independence and responsibility."

Asked about the Morales Bello case, the public prosecutor stated his disagreement with the election of the AD [Democratic Action] senator, but declined to provide further information on the matter.

As for the issue of judicial tribes, Escovar Salom stated that "such influence as they have tried to wield within the judiciary, and particularly over criminal jurisprudence, is incompatible with a decent Venezuela and a state of government by law. We must dismantle the tribes forthwith, identifying the ties that exist, be they of family or other nature whatever, among writers, trial lawyers, and certain judges."

In another connection, the public prosecutor stated that he considers it also necessary "to open an investigation into recent offensive TV spots directed against the Armed Forces, to determine their cost and identify the responsibilities involved." For the rest, he promised to continue speaking out in forthcoming days on the issue of justice in the nation.

* List of Arrested Coup Participants Provided

92SM0298A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 5

[Article by Ibis Helena Mendoza]

[Text] At midday yesterday, the judge of the Second Permanent Military Court in Caracas, Army Colonel Ramon Moreno Natera, issued arrest warrants on charges of mutiny for 33 professional Army officers who commanded and supported the attempted coup d'etat on 4 February.

This order, reflecting a ruling issued by a military court of the first instance, was read by the clerk of the court, Army Lieutenant Alexis Jose Balza Meza in the Court Martial Assembly Hall at Fort Tiuna.

The procedure involved in this judgment is continuing with the examination by a reporting judge, who will review the proceedings and establish whether or not there were defects in the handling of the case. It may be as long as a month before the bond in connection with the frustrated overthrow is submitted to the chief executive of the nation, Carlos Andres Perez. In accordance with Article 224 of the Code of Military Justice, he can order the prosecution of the case continued, can suspend the proceedings, or can even order dismissal of the case in such particular instances as he may designate.

The next levels, according to information obtained from this institution, would be the Permanent War Council, and then the Court Martial.

The list of officers includes 24 who "initiated or led" the action and nine "supporters," with the recommendation that they be prosecuted for the crime of rebellion, as defined in Article 476 of the Code of Military Justice, in what is termed in a statement by Moreno Natera "a single trial on the national level."

The summary inquiry being pursued into the criminal deeds mentioned above, which occurred at some garrisons in the country, for example in the states of Zulia, Carabobo, and Aragua, and the Federal District, refers to a single case file collated by adjunction in the Second Military Court.

After reading the judgment, the clerk of the court, Lt Daza Meza, announced that the summary proceedings are continuing. Meanwhile, the judge absented himself immediately, repairing to a lower floor before the journalists assigned to the court could ask further questions about the matter. To this end they had waited for a period of time which excessively taxed their patience. This occurred because there were so many witnesses that even the guarded hallways of the premises had been requisitioned to take the statements of military personnel before they were escorted back to the San Carlos Barracks, where they were being detained by DIM [Military Intelligence Directorate] personnel.

According to Articles 476, 479, and 477 of the Code of Military Justice, which deal with professional soldiers in the Armed Forces charged with mutiny, the sentences handed down may range from 26 to 30 years in prison, depending on the level of responsibility of the individual in the frustrated coup attempt 15 days ago.

The document provided to reporters lists 33 Army officers, of whom five are lieutenant colonels, seven majors, 19 captains, and two lieutenants.

The Pertinent Articles

"Article 476. Military rebellion is defined as:

"1. Promoting, assisting, or supporting any armed action intended to disturb the domestic peace of the Republic or to prevent or hinder the exercise by the government of any of its powers.

"2. Or committing, for the benefit of an enemy of legality in the course of a civil war, any of the actions listed under Items 2, 27, 28, and 29 in Article 464, insofar as they apply.

"Article 477. Military personnel found guilty of the crime of mutiny in the presence of a foreign enemy will be punished as follows: 1. By a sentence of 28 to 30 years in prison and expulsion from the Armed Forces, following demotion or revocation of rank, as the case may be, for the direct advocates or leaders of the mutiny, regardless of rank, as prescribed by the law.

"2. By a sentence of between 26 and 28 years in prison and expulsion from the Armed Forces, following demotion or revocation of rank, as the case may be, for those who, in connection with the case described, supported the mutiny in any way whatsoever.

"Single paragraph. For the purposes of the application of the preceding paragraphs, the official position of the defendant and his rank in the Armed Forces will be considered as aggravating circumstances.

"Article 479. In all other cases of mutiny, the penalty will be between 24 and 30 years in prison for the individuals included under Item 1 in Article 477, and between 22 and 28 years in prison for those covered by Item 2 in said article.

"The provisions of the single paragraph of Article 477 are currently in effect for the purposes of this article."

The List

A. The following professional military personnel are listed as promoters or leaders of a criminal action, in accordance with Article 476, Item 1, for which penalties are provided by Article 479, consistent with Item 1 in Article 477 of the Code of Military Justice:

1. Lt Col Jesus Miguel Ortiz Contreras, Army ID No 3795521
2. Lt Col Yoel Candelario Acosta Chirinos, Army ID No 3362700
3. Lt Col Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias, Army ID No 4258228
4. Lt Col Francisco Javier Arias Cardenas, Army ID No 2554283
5. Lt Col Jesus Urdaneta Hernandez, Army ID No 4391814
6. Maj Pedro Emilio Alastre Lopez, Army ID No 3864865
7. Maj Carlos Torres Numberg, Army ID No 3987950
8. Maj Ciro Antonio Rincon Vera, Army ID No 4993987
9. Maj Carlos Manuel Diaz Reyes, Army ID No 4054805
10. Maj Pedro Jose Silva Delgado, Army ID No 4141958
11. Capt Carlos Luis Aguilera Borjas, Army ID No 5721510
12. Capt Antonio Rafael Rojas Suarez, Army ID No 8546834
13. Capt Miguel Eduardo Rodriguez Torres, Army ID No 6368196

14. Capt Gerardo Alfredo Marquez, Army ID No 9012577
15. Capt Luis Valderrama Rosales, Army ID No 8053414
16. Capt Celso Enrique Canelones Guevara, Army ID No 8054710
17. Capt Joaquin Napoleon Suarez Montes, Army ID No 5972981
18. Capt Jorge Luis Duran Centeno, Army ID No 6000053
19. Capt Juan Carlos Hidalgo Pandare, Army ID No 7220202
20. Capt Carlos Alcala Cordones, Army ID No 3889707
21. Capt Dario Noel Arteaga Paez, Army ID No 7306412
22. Capt Humberto Rafael Ortega Diaz, Army ID No 8550493
23. Lt Luis Eduardo Chacon Roa, Army ID No 6049648
24. Lt Leonardo Luis Herrera Medina, Army ID No 7672572.

B. The following professional military personnel are listed as supporters of a criminal action, in accordance with Article 476, Item 1, for which penalities are provided by Article 479, consistent with Item 2 in Article 477 of the Code of Military Justice:

1. Maj Armando Jose Galicia Diaz, Army ID No 8890133
2. Maj Francisco Javier Centeno, Army ID No 4256953
3. Capt Carlos Emilio Guillen Bello, Army ID No 5271688
4. Capt Euclides Campos Aponte, Army ID No 8615294
5. Capt Noel Rafael Martinez Rivero, Army ID No 8915323
6. Capt Angel Francisco Godoy, Army ID No 4922480
7. Capt Henry de Jesus Rangel Silva, Army ID No 5764952
8. Capt Neptali Navas Araujo, Army ID No 4608675
9. Capt Edgar Hernandez Behrens, Army ID No 4910298.

* Retired General Describes DISIP Detention

92SM0297A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Feb 92 (Section 1) p 12

[Report and interview with General Jacobo Yepez Daza by Vladimir Villegas Poljak: "My Arrest Was an Act of 'Lese Majeste' Against the Armed Forces"; place and date not given]

[Text] In his first statements after being released, General Jacobo Yepez Daza, president of IORFAN [Armed Forces Retired Officers Institute], said that his arrest by DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] was an insult to an FAN [National Armed Forces] officer, for which he held the advisers of President Carlos Andres Perez responsible.

Yepez Daza was arrested the day after publication of the statement in which 40 retired officers who are IORFAN members took a position on the military coup perpetrated by the group called the Bolivarian Military Movement.

[Yepez Daza] I was insulted by the national government, under the pretext of the publication of a document drafted by a group of retired officers. Before its publication the chief prosecutor of the Republic and the defense minister knew its contents; it was definitely published with the national government's consent, since the government had the power to decide whether or not it could be published, as consitutional protections had been suspended at that time.

Rather than seeking the reasons why the national government arrested him, which he says he does not know, General Yepez Daza has chosen to criticize what happened.

[Yepez Daza] I will make a number of points to support my view that this was an insult and an injury against me both as a citizen and as an Armed Forces officer, and also against my family. The first is the action itself. On Thursday the retired officers' document was published normally in three periodicals with a large national circulation. The national government censors were the people who decided whether or not the document would be published. Why arrest me as the person responsible for publication if the specific responsibility for deciding whether or not it would be published belonged to the official censors?

Yepez Daza says he has been informed that when the statement was brought to President Perez's attention through the normal channels, he and his advisers came to the conclusion that the document should not be published at that time, and issued instructions to that effect.

[Villegas Poljak] Why did the defense minister authorize you to publish the document?

[Yepez Daza] The defense minister did not authorize me to publish it. He was simply aware that it was going to be published. He raised no objection when we read the document to him in his office. About 50 officers had gone to his office to express our support to the defense minister, as we felt that he had played a decisive role in the continuity of the constitutional process in the Republic. We felt that the most important protagonists in these events were Major General Fernando Ochoa Antich and Rear Admiral Carratu Molina, head of the presidential guard.

[Villegas Poljak] Did the president or anyone else hold a grudge against you?

[Yepez Daza] I do not believe so. I personally think the president of the Republic, as chief of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deserves my full respect and regard, for he was anointed by the people's vote to serve as chief magistrate. I do not believe the president has anything against me personally. He has been quite respectful toward me. But I could not say the same of his advisers; they are the ones who advised him very poorly, inducing him to perpetrate this stupid act

against an FAN officer who in essence only tried to help with the publication of a document that was a sort of relief value for the terrible pressure cooker we had on 4 February.

Another argument in Yepez Daza's contention that he was insulted by the government is the manner in which he was arrested.

[Yepez Daza] It is essential for the public to know that an Army general who has provided important service to the Republic, as a number of presidents have testified, was arrested like a common criminal in a sort of "SWAT" or "Rambo" style operation. I thank God for giving me sufficient prudence, common sense and tact so that the DISIP agents could not have misinterpeted any of my actions, which were far from criminal. I had been spending the weekend on a farm, helping some ranchers and farmworkers to provide veterinary treatment for livestock. It is quite possible that some unexpected movement might have caused those individuals to fire. Then I would have been a defenseless man facing three men dressed in black wearing bullet-proof vests. Is that the sort of treatment a high-ranking Armed Forces officer deserves?

Yepez Daza complains that the DISIP officials used long weapons in arresting him. "Long weapons, with the exception of shotguns, are considered wartime weapons. I believe this was an insult. If the arrest was a consequence of the document written by the retired officers, because this document was considered subversive and related to the events of 4 February, this action should have been covered by the Military Justice Code, which in Article 124 very clearly states that retired officers remain officers."

[Villegas Poljak] Then the DIM [Military Intelligence Directorate], and not the DISIP, should have arrested you?

[Yepez Daza] The proper thing would have been for the Military Intelligence Directorate, which is my organization, to arrest me. I also want to say that because of the concept of military honor and the great sensitivity that exists in the FAN on this point, the president's advisers should have advised him to have me arrested by a high-ranking officer; this is the customary practice among the military. In this case the advisers did not tell the president that as he is also commander in chief of the Armed Forces, he should not insult a major general, as that is an action of "lese majeste" against the entire hierarchical structure of the FAN.

Still, Yepez said that during his confinement in DISIP headquarters at Tarpeya Rock, the treatment which both he and the many officers and friends who visited him there received could not have been better.

The IORFAN Document

Yepez Daza says the retired officers' document offered recommendations to help the Armed Forces heal the wounds left by the frustrated 4 February coup. "The steps we recommended to the defense minister are certainly being taken into account and carried out efficiently."

He notes that on 4 February, when the 40 officers who drafted the document met, they heard what Yepez Daza describes as the "unfortunate" comment by Senator David Morales Bello, in which he uttered his famous cry: "Death to the coup perpetrators!"

The IORFAN president described Morales Bello as a "senator admired by many people, one of the most outstanding members of Congress, and a noted and respected expert on criminal law." He said that without thinking about the time and place where he was, he uttered in Congress "a word that we feel cannot be justified—that famous phrase: 'Death to the coup perpetrators!'"

He explained that the origin of the retired officers' document has to be attributed to that statement by Morales Bello.

[Yepez Daza] When the retired officers who were watching television here heard Morales Bello, we realized there was a danger that his phrase could convert a blessing—that this coup had caused only 14 deaths—into a far-reaching witchhunt used to smash the few sound elements still remaining in the FAN after the coup. The document was prepared with the specific purpose of alerting the public that human rights had to be respected. In Venezuela we do have a state of law for which we officers have fought for 34 years, even though we have not agreed with many of the steps taken by recent governments, which have brought us to a state of economic, political and social prostration.

Major General Jacobo Yepez Daza said that the document's origin and motivations are more than justified by the statements and events that followed the coup. He expressed appreciation to Prosecutor Ramon Escovar Salom "who assigned no fewer than 40 prosecutors to monitor the correct administration of justice, as provided by Article 220 of our National Constitution."

[Villegas Poljak] I imagine there must be a lot of concern in the Armed Forces about Morales Bello's possible appointment as president of Congress....

[Yepez Daza] I do not think a man should be rejected because of one bad moment. On the contrary, what characterizes a human being is how he corrects his behavior. Any of us could have uttered one phase in the wrong time and place. I believe we should be indulgent toward Doctor Morales Bello. My opinion about whether he should be president of Congress would be based on the rest of his record in national life. Senator Morales Bello said in Congress: "Death to the coup perpetrators!" I will not be the one to cry: "Death to Morales Bello!"

What Penaloza Said

Yepez Daza was told of the statement by another major general, Carlos Julio Penaloza, who told EL UNIVERSAL that, according to information he had received, the president, knowing that Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Rafael Chavez was involved in a conspiracy, met with that officer and promised him a promotion and a post commensurate with his rank.

General Yepez Daza preferred not to make any specific comment on that subject. He said he understood very clearly the difference between an event and the opinions different people form about that event.

[Yepez Daza] I have observed with some amazement how General Penaloza is trying to impress people with his profound knowledge about the lieutenant colonels involved in the 4 February military actions. His knowledge goes back to the days when they were captains. It makes us wonder how it is possible that a military leader like Penaloza did not win the hearts of those men and convince them to respect the constitutional process, if they passed through his hands and were commanded and trained by Penaloza.

Yepez Daza advised prudence "and trying to guide the citizens toward attitudes of confidence and belief in the little that still remains of the constitutional system we founded 34 years ago."

[Villegas Poljak] Why did you say "the little that still remains"?

[Yepez Daza] Because the present system and the current administration are under assault from all sides. I believe we need to make changes; we need to seek intelligent solutions that will awaken hope and inspire confidence in the constitutional system.

*** Government Considers Economic Policy Changes**

92SM0298B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 18 Feb 92 p 19

[Article by R.M.G.]

[Text] The deferment of price increases on gasoline, in order to effect them every two months or quarterly, is one of the economic policy changes the executive branch is contemplating with a view to reducing inflationary expectations.

Although Minister of Finance Pedro Rosas said yesterday in Miraflores that no interministerial commission had been appointed to consider changes in the economic policy, he admitted that the freezing of electricity rates is being studied, among other reforms in the package. However, government sources confirmed that such a commission exists, as well as some of the points on which it will be working.

—One option in connection with gasoline prices is to make the increases less frequent, that is to say every two or three months instead of monthly, as they are now. At the same time, the present policy of greater price increases for high-octane fuel than for fuel with a lower octane rating would be continued, in order to maintain the differential among the types of gasoline.

Meanwhile, in the transportation sector, periodic reviews of the policy of subsidizing student fares are suggested, in order to establish the extent to which the goals for the transfer of resources, the incorporation of new methods to make the subsidy effective, and geographic coverage have been achieved. In other words, the reviews would establish whether or not the established amounts are being collected.

—With regard to electricity rates, which like gasoline prices, diffuse the effects of inflation and the expectations of price increases, more gradual increases, rather than a freeze, are planned, according to our sources. Earlier, there was talk of an average increase of 68 percent in these rates in the course of 1992 (average including residential and industrial, with greater increases for residential rates in order to promote and encourage industry). However, what is being studied now is more gradual increases, which would be spread over two years.

If the government has inflationary expectations of between 20 and 25 percent for this year, the increases in the rates for public services should not exceed these percentages, our sources said. This is because the industrialists will transfer the increases to production costs, among other reasons.

At the same time, it does not seem logical to freeze rates absolutely, because this would lead to an accumulation of costs, one of the policies, precisely, which the government has opposed. "What is being considered is rationalization of the increases," our sources said.

—Import of vehicles. The adoption of this measure, which would affect the already beleaguered domestic automotive industry, seems unlikely. It will probably be maintained only for public transport vehicles and taxis.

—Wage increase. It is claimed that no great increase in the 8,000 bolivares initially planned is possible—about 9,000 bolivares could, perhaps, be managed. At the same time, a kind of joint agreement, which would not constitute price control, might be reached between the public and productive sectors to reduce the price increases on basic products. The idea is to bring about the recovery of consumption while creating production expectations at the same time. Thus this would be neither a permanent nor an imposed agreement.

—Interest rates. The only way to lower interest rates is to reduce the existing differential between the active and passive rates. Although plans call for maintenance of the range of 60 and 10 percent for the active and

passive rates, respectively, the maximum and minimum spread could be established by the Central Bank of Venezuela. One proposal along these lines would make the maximum differential the banks could use, eight points, and the minimum, two points. When the differential diminishes, the active rate tends to decline, but at the same time, this reduction should correspond to the expectation of inflation. This did not occur last year, when inflation slowed from 36 to 31 percent, and yet the active rate did not drop below 40 percent, while the passive rate did.

Another element which will make it possible to reduce inflationary expectations, sources in the executive branch believe, is the maintenance of the exchange policy. The development of the rate of exchange thus far this year has created the expectations of a more limited devaluation. This is because although the bolivar rate dropped from 62 to 65 to the dollar, this represents, in percentage terms, a devaluation of 3 percent, reflecting the rate of inflation in January, the effects of the attempted coup d'etat, and the inflationary expectations for February.